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Security Council

Sixty-seventh year

Provisional

6767th meeting

Thursday, 10 May 2012, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Mehdiyev	(Azerbaijan)
Members:	China	Mr. Wang Min
	Colombia	Mr. Alzate
	France	Mr. Briens
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Morocco	Mr. Bouchaara
	Pakistan	Mr. Tarar
	Portugal	Mr. Moraes Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	Togo	Mr. Kandangha-Bariki
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham
	United States of America	Mrs. DiCarlo

Agenda

Briefings by Chairmen of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council

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12-33504 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Briefings by Chairmen of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council

The President: Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Armenia, Australia, Austria, Israel, Japan, Spain and the Syrian Arab Republic to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Thomas Mayr-Harting, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

At the outset, Ambassador Peter Wittig will make a joint statement on behalf of the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) and the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004). Ambassador Wittig will then brief the Council in his capacity as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, to be followed by briefings by the Chairs of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004).

I now give the floor to Ambassador Wittig.

Mr. Wittig (Germany): Mr. President, as you said, I have the pleasure of making various statements today — three, as a matter of fact. First, I will speak on behalf of the three subsidiary bodies. Then, immediately afterward, I will speak on behalf of the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee. Finally, later in the debate, I will make a statement in my national capacity.

On behalf of the Chairs of the three subsidiary bodies of the Security Council established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004), I have the honour to update the Security Council on the continuing cooperation among the three Committees and their expert groups, as requested by the Council in its resolutions 1989 (2011), 1963 (2010) and 1977 (2011), and earlier resolutions.

For the sake of brevity, I will focus my remarks on the most relevant strategic aspects. A more detailed version of this statement will be distributed today in hard copy and made available on the website of the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011).

Terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction continue to pose a serious threat to international peace and security. It remains important to maintain close cooperation and effective coordination between the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) as well as between their respective groups of experts. The three Committees continue to attach great importance to the coordination and cooperation between the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the Monitoring Team of the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee and the group of experts assisting the 1540 Committee.

The Committees welcome the continuing efforts of the expert groups to cooperate on outreach activities and country visits within their respective mandates, enhance cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations, increase exchange of information, participate in joint meetings and maintain reciprocal representation as appropriate. I am pleased to report that cooperation among the expert groups has increased in some areas. The details are outlined in the hard copy of this statement to be distributed.

At the same time, the Committees see room for further improvement regarding cooperation and cost-effectiveness. The expert groups should further enhance their cooperation in line with their respective mandates, in particular with regard to their outreach activities.

The Committees note with concern that terrorist groups continue to seek to exploit gaps in the capacity of Member States to fully implement counter-terrorism measures. The Committees' groups of experts can play a pertinent role in advising States that seek assistance in building counter-terrorism capacity.

The Committees welcome all efforts aimed at enhancing the visibility of United Nations counter-terrorism activities and ensuring greater cooperation, coordination and coherence among United Nations entities with a view to promoting transparency and avoiding duplication. The Committees take note of the

recommendation of the Secretary-General for Member States to consider appointing a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator, and, in that regard, look forward to the discussions on that initiative in connection with their deliberations on further improving cross-institutional coherence of United Nations counter-terrorism efforts.

Let me now come to my second statement in my capacity as Chair of the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee. In today's briefing, as Chair of that Committee, I would like to provide an update on the activities and achievements of the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities since my last briefing in November 2011 (see S/PV.6658). In my remarks I shall focus on what the Committee considers to be the most important elements: first, the evolving nature of the threat posed by Al-Qaida; secondly, enhancing implementation of the sanctions measures; and thirdly, fair and clear procedures. A more detailed version of this statement will be distributed in a hard copy today and made available on the Committee's website.

My first point concerns the nature of the threat posed by Al-Qaida. Al-Qaida and its associates continue to pose a threat to international peace and security, and this threat continues to evolve. As such, it is important for Member States to continue making every effort to fully implement the measures outlined in resolution 1989 (2011).

At the same time, the Committee remains committed to ensuring that the Al-Qaida sanctions list is dynamic and responsive to the changing nature of the threat. The Committee's decisions related to listing and de-listing are based on requests by Member States. In this context, the Committee recalls that it remains the responsibility of all Member States to ensure that the list of targeted individuals and entities accurately reflects the evolving threat posed by Al-Qaida through the submission of listing and de-listing requests in a timely manner.

My second point relates to implementation. The Committee recalls that counter-terrorism measures adopted under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter are binding on all Member States. The Committee notes with concern that Al-Qaida and associated terrorist groups seek to exploit gaps in the capacity of Member States to fully implement counter-terrorist measures as requested by the Security Council. The Committee continues to explore new ways to collaborate with Member States to support implementation efforts.

The Committee realizes that the prompt, effective implementation of sanctions measures is best achieved when the sanctions list is accurate, up to date and user-friendly. First, a new format for the list, designed to facilitate harmonization across all Security Council sanctions regimes, has been approved by the Committee. Secondly, the Committee is conducting reviews outlined in resolution 1989 (2011) in a streamlined fashion, in particular regarding reportedly deceased individuals and defunct entities or entries that lack sufficient identifiers.

The Committee relies on the cooperation of Member States for the successful conduct of these reviews. The Committee will continue to make every effort to devise review modalities that will allow for an effective and credible review process without overburdening Member States. The Committee has held preliminary discussions on the recommendations submitted by the Monitoring Team in its twelfth report. The Committee will transmit the Monitoring Team's report to the Security Council once it has concluded its considerations, and will provide the Council with the Committee's position on the recommendations. The Monitoring Team continues to support the work of the Committee, including through outreach activities and by engaging with individual States and participating in conferences. In doing so, the Team promotes the work of the Committee to a wider audience and encourages implementation.

My third point concerns fair and clear procedures. The Security Council's decision to establish and enhance the Office of the Ombudsperson continues to be a milestone in the field of targeted sanctions. The Ombudsperson is mandated to assist the Committee in safeguarding the rights of listed individuals in a fair, independent and effective process. The Committee has successfully established a transparent practice for processing recommendations on de-listing petitions submitted through the Ombudsperson's Office. In 15 cases that were submitted through the Office of the Ombudsperson, the Committee has completed its consideration, resulting in 13 individuals and 23 entities being removed from the list. Currently, four comprehensive reports of the Ombudsperson are under consideration by the Committee. For further details, I

advise members to consult the website of the Ombudsperson.

In resolution 1989 (2011), the Security Council has set out clear guidance for this process, including the timelines for the Ombudsperson and the Committee. The Committee remains committed to observing these, since they are considered to be a fundamental element of fairness. For the same reason, the Committee attaches great importance to providing a rationale for its decisions. In conclusion, the Ombudsperson process is producing tangible results by further enhancing fair and clear procedures.

As Chair and on behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank all Member States for their continued willingness to cooperate constructively with the Committee, its Monitoring Team and the Office of the Ombudsperson. The Committee has brought many improvements to fruition in recent years, and remains committed to building upon these advancements.

The President: I thank Ambassador Wittig for his joint statement and briefing.

I give the floor to Ambassador Puri, Chairman of the security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, and in his national capacity.

Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri (India): I have had the honour to chair the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) since the beginning of 2011. It gives me great pleasure to brief the Security Council on the work of the Committee since the previous briefing, held in November last year (see S/PV.6658).

The Committee continues to be guided in its work by the relevant Security Council resolutions, especially resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 1963 (2010), and to play a critical role in promoting and facilitating their implementation.

I would like to highlight here the publication in January of the global survey of the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005) by Member States, prepared by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) pursuant to the provisions of resolution 1963 (2010). As members will recall, resolution 1624 (2005) addresses the critical but complex issues of prohibiting incitement to commit acts of terrorism and countering incitement motivated by extremism and intolerance, including through the promotion of dialogue and understanding among civilizations.

The survey considers the status of implementation of the resolution by geographical region and by theme, identifies gaps in implementation, and suggests new, practical approaches to achieving the goals set forth in the resolution. In particular, the survey highlights the human rights challenges involved in seeking to prevent genuine incitement while not infringing upon the fundamental rights to freedom of expression and freedom of belief. The survey notes the need to pay more attention, within a human rights framework, to Internet and other social-media content that is considered to be incitement. It also highlights the importance of giving victims of terrorism, and civil society more generally, a role in efforts to counter incitement motivated by extremism and intolerance.

The elements of this year's programme of work include organizing another special meeting, open to the wider membership, that will focus on the key aspects of the Committee's implementation of its mandate. The special meeting will provide a further opportunity for Counter-Terrorism Committee members and the rest of the United Nations membership to discuss counter-terrorism issues of priority concern. The Committee has not yet agreed on the agenda or timing for the special meeting.

The Committee is also scheduled to conduct an interim review of CTED by 30 June, in accordance with resolution 1963 (2010). The Committee will also explore the possibility of collaborating with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, identifying available practices, elements and good standards that could help Member States to develop their respective comprehensive and integrated counter-terrorism strategies in accordance with resolution 1963 (2010), and will focus on further improving the format of the global surveys on the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). The Committee is also in the process of reviewing the format of the preliminary implementation assessment in order to enhance its usefulness as a diagnostic tool. In that regard, all United Nations Member States have their own preliminary implementation assessments, and the stocktaking of their country counter-terrorism profiles is being carried out by CTED.

The Committee continues to focus on region-specific discussions and on issues identified in the

2011 global survey. The Committee also continues to organize and participate in discussions and workshops on thematic issues. Some of the major issues considered by the Committee during the past six months include countering incitement to terrorism by preventing the subversion of educational, cultural and religious institutions; terrorism prevention and countering incitement to terrorism through the Internet; and preventing the abuse of non-profit organizations for terrorism-financing purposes. The Committee also held a discussion on developments in the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) in West Africa.

As part of its efforts to enhance its interaction with international and regional organizations and United Nations entities, the Committee has also heard briefings on counter-terrorism by Mr. Alexey Kuzyura, Chairperson of the Working Group of the Meeting of Heads of Special Services, Security Agencies and Law Enforcement Organizations on counter-terrorism; by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Counter-Terrorism Task Force; and the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering.

CTED has also been active in conducting a number of workshops on specific topics aimed at a specific regional audience. Important workshops organized during this period include the subregional workshop for South and South-East Asian States on controlling the physical cross-border transportation of cash and bearer-negotiable instruments, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in November 2011; the first of a series of around six regional workshops and consultations on the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005), held for East African States in Nairobi in late November 2011; the third regional workshop on protecting the non-profit sector from abuse by terrorist financers, held in Nairobi for countries of East Africa in late February; and the fifth regional workshop for police officers and prosecutors of South Asia, held in March in New Delhi.

Major forthcoming events include a regional workshop on controlling the cross-border movement of bearer-negotiable instruments, scheduled for 14 to 19 May in Tonga; the third seminar for counter-terrorism practitioners, scheduled for June in Algiers; the regional workshop on the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005), scheduled for July in Morocco; and the sixth regional workshop for police officers, prosecutors and judges in South Asia on effectively countering terrorism, scheduled for later this year in Islamabad.

In addition, the Committee and CTED continue to enhance their ongoing dialogue with Member States, donors and beneficiaries on the facilitation of technical assistance for capacity-building at the national and subregional levels. Furthermore, the Committee and CTED will continue to pay close attention to the question of respect for human rights and the rule of law in the counter-terrorism measures taken by States, in accordance with the relevant mandates conferred by the Security Council.

During the reporting period, the Committee and CTED organized a briefing for the wider membership on recent developments in their work. Member States were also invited to a regional presentation on developments in the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) in West Africa, held on the same occasion. The Committee and CTED continue to work closely with the relevant working groups of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, United Nations Centre for Counter-Terrorism and the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum in order to support, coordinate and complement one another's counter-terrorism endeavours. I attach high priority to enhancing transparency and public outreach and to strengthening cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations in the work of the Committee.

In conclusion, the Committee will continue to play a critical role in the global fight against terrorism and strive to do so in a more strategic and transparent manner so that it can more effectively contribute to the global counter-terrorism effort within the scope of its mandate. I would like to conclude by expressing my sincere appreciation to Mr. Mike Smith, Executive Director of CTED, and to his team for their excellent work on the Committee's behalf, and to thank the Secretariat for its continued support.

I would now like to make a brief statement in my national capacity.

The Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) should continue to further strengthen their ongoing efforts in the fight against terrorism. India fully supports all efforts that strengthen international and regional cooperation and, most importantly, help ensure the effective implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions, including

1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005), and a comprehensive and integrated implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The outcome document adopted by the Counter-Terrorism Committee at its special meeting, held on 28 September 2011, is a major landmark in providing strategic direction to the work of the Committee aimed at strengthening the capacity of States in their counter-terrorism efforts. It raises the benchmark in the fight against terrorism to a higher level. It urges all Member States to ensure zero tolerance towards terrorism and to take urgent action to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations through the full and effective implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and other relevant international instruments. We urge all United Nations Member States to strive to implement that approach in their counter-terrorism efforts.

Since the splitting of the 1267 sanctions regime in June 2011, it has been a challenging period for the 1267 Committee and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) in adjusting to the revised mandates. The Monitoring Team needs to put greater focus on comprehensively and objectively examining the linkages between Al-Qaida and the Taliban, which pose a serious threat to international peace and security.

It is critical that all sanctions regimes established by the Security Council ensure swift, fair and transparent procedures in their decision-making. The processes of listing and de-listing need to be guided by the same set of principles: fairness, credibility and transparency.

Concerning the 1540 Committee, India fully shares international concerns over the serious threat posed by nuclear terrorism and clandestine proliferation to international security. We are fully cognizant of the catastrophic dangers that transfers of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) to non-State actors and terrorists could entail. The international community must join hands to eliminate the risks relating to sensitive materials and technologies falling into the hands of terrorists and non-State actors. The international response to the threat needs to be national, as well as multilateral and global. India has an unwavering commitment to global efforts for preventing the proliferation of WMDs and their means of delivery. We support the work of the 1540 Committee in accordance with its mandate. We propose to host a workshop of the Committee later this year.

In conclusion, we need greater international, regional and subregional cooperation in our counter-terrorism efforts. International cooperation and concerted action against terrorists and their sponsors, including the complete dismantling of terrorist safe havens, sanctuaries, training grounds and financial and ideological support structures are critical imperatives for defeating the scourge of terrorism.

Our collective endeavour should be to enhance coherence and synergy among different counter-terrorism structures that are dealing with the issue of terrorism within the United Nations. In this context, we welcome the recent initiative of the Secretary-General for Member States to consider the creation of the post of United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator, and express our willingness to fully engage in all deliberations aimed at further improving the cross-institutional coherence and effectiveness of United Nations counter-terrorism efforts. We need to bear in mind that success in the implementation of counter-terrorism measures not only requires the fullest cooperative and collective effort by all Member States, but also their fullest participation in processes that affect the collective security of all the nations equally.

The President: I thank Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri for his briefing.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Baso Sangqu, Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004).

Mr. Sangqu (South Africa): I am very pleased, as Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), to give an overview of the main developments in the work of the Committee since the most recent joint briefing, on 14 November 2011 (see S/PV.6658), in addition to the information just delivered by Ambassador Wittig in the joint statement.

I will update the Council on the first annual review of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) conducted by the Committee and on recent activities. Before I do so, I want to express my gratitude to Lebanon for having served as acting Chair of the Committee at the end of 2011.

In accordance with paragraph 9 of resolution 1977 (2011), the Committee conducted, with the assistance of

its experts, its first annual review on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). The review showed the progress made by States and other activities relevant to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) during the period from 1 January to 31 December 2011. The report on the review was transmitted to the Security Council on 1 February 2012 (S/2012/79, annex) and is structured in two parts. The first part provides a factual summary of the year under consideration, based on the structure of resolution 1977 (2011) in the areas of implementation, assistance, cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations, and transparency and outreach. The second part is analytical, with a forward-looking perspective, identifying nine steps that the Committee may consider, taking into account recommendations contained in the report submitted to the Security Council on 12 September 2011 (S/2011/579). The annual review is also available on the website of the 1540 Committee.

Since the most recent joint briefing, the 1540 Committee has conducted activities focused on implementation, assistance, cooperation with international organizations, and outreach and transparency, in accordance with resolution 1977 (2011) and with the tenth programme of work of the Committee for the period from 1 June 2011 to 31 May 2012.

With regard to implementation, monitoring and facilitating, the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by States is a key function of the Committee, bearing in mind that the full implementation of the resolution by States is a long-term task. As no initial report on the implementation of the resolution has been received since the most recent joint briefing, the number of States that have not yet submitted a report remains at 25. However, the Committee has received additional information from several States. Belarus informed the Committee of its intention to prepare a national framework document on the implementation of the resolution. Serbia informed the Committee of the adoption of a national action plan for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) for the period 2012-2016. Montenegro provided the Committee with point of contact information.

In addition, experts supporting the Committee have conducted country-specific dialogues with several States, with a view to facilitating the implementation of the resolution. Experts conducted a site visit to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as part of the United States of America country visit. This was done at the invitation of the United States Government, which wished to discuss the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Let me also note that a visit was planned to the Republic of the Congo, at its invitation, to discuss several aspects of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), including the submission of an initial report. The visit was eventually postponed owing to the accidental fire in the central arms and ammunition depot in Brazzaville. I ensure the Republic of the Congo of our sympathy for their situation and of our willingness to reschedule the visit at a more convenient time.

On assistance, the 1540 Committee continues to actively play its clearinghouse role to facilitate match-making between requests and offers of assistance in relation with the implementation by States of resolution 1540 (2004). In that regard, the Committee continues to implement its revised guidelines on processing assistance requests. Since the most recent joint briefing, the Committee has received additional information regarding assistance from Serbia and point of contact information for assistance from Madagascar. As Chairman of the 1540 Committee, I have sent letters to States and regional organizations that have requested assistance to inform them of the responses received and to enquire whether their requests were met.

In anticipation of the Group of Eight Global Partnership Working Group meeting in Washington, D.C., on 24 and 25 January 2012, the Committee approved an updated consolidated list of assistance requests prepared by its experts and shared it with the presidency of the Group of Eight (G-8) for distribution to the G-8 partners, calling for a substantive and proactive dialogue on that issue. Since the most recent joint briefing, the 1540 Committee and its experts have participated in three meetings of the Global Partnership Working Group, where assistance and capacity-building matters were discussed.

The Committee continues to cooperate with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, participating in outreach events organized or co-organized, for instance, by the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the League of Arab States, the Counter-Terrorism Committee

Executive Directorate (CTED), the World Customs Organization and the secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States.

The Committee received a briefing from the Chair of The Hague Code of Conduct, who noted that, although the Code had not been negotiated within the framework of the United Nations, it had a valuable role to play in furthering the aims of resolution 1540 (2004).

The Committee received points of contact information from the African Union and the OSCE. The Committee has also received a communication from the OSCE submitting point of contact information for 44 of its participating States, in accordance with OSCE Decision 19/11, entitled "Points of Contact on UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)", adopted on 14 December 2011.

The Committee may consider a strategy for engaging with international, regional and subregional organizations and other entities, as appropriate, in particular with respect to information-sharing, the exchange of experiences and lessons learned and cooperation in assisting Member States.

Since our most recent joint briefing, the Committee and its experts have participated in 31 outreach events, listed on the website of the Committee. These include participation in the first Conference of International, Regional and Subregional Industry Associations on Resolution 1540 (2004) held in Germany, from 23 to 25 April 2012, which was attended by Committee members from both Germany and Pakistan.

The Committee, with the assistance of its experts, has also participated in various country-specific activities, including Albania, Belarus, Colombia, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, Myanmar and Turkmenistan.

Transparency is a key principle guiding the work of the Committee. With the support of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Committee undertook a major redesign of its website, which has been launched and can now be accessed in its new configuration.

Before I conclude, let me highlight two matters on which, I hope, it will be possible for the Committee to make progress. The first is the establishment of a group of experts in support of the Committee, in accordance with paragraph 5 (a) of resolution 1977 (2011). The Committee has approved and transmitted to the Council recommendations for the structure, methods, modalities, expertise and geographical representation of the Committee and the group of experts. A call for nominations was subsequently launched, and Committee members are now actively consulting on finalizing the process of establishing the group. As Chair of the Committee, I call for a speedy conclusion to that process and establishment of the new group of experts without delay, as it is already becoming clear that the work of the Committee and the progress it has made so far will be adversely affected if we do not have a group of experts in place as soon as possible.

The second matter before the Committee is that of strengthening the existing administrative and logistics support for the Committee by the Office for Disarmament Affairs, as requested by the Council in paragraph 22 (a) of resolution 1977 (2011), including through strengthening the regional capacity of UNODA to support implementation of the resolution at the regional, subregional and national levels. Completing those two tasks will be a major focus of the Committee's work in the upcoming period.

I would now like, if I may, to make a brief statement in my national capacity.

South Africa believes that the United Nations remains at the forefront of international efforts to combat terrorism. Those efforts should comply with legal norms and standards and with human rights and humanitarian law. The Security Council and the three terrorism-related Committees play an important role in that regard. We therefore support strengthened coordination and cooperation among the Committees, and believe that their efforts should complement the work of the General Assembly on counter-terrorism, particularly the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

South Africa believes that in implementing our various obligations under resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004), we should take into account the need for a Member State-driven agenda. Accordingly, we recognize that it is up to each State to contextualize the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy within its own national framework. This will make it relevant to the overall objective of combating the threats of terrorism and of the possibility that

non-State actors, including terrorists, may acquire weapons of mass destruction.

In that regard, we welcome the continuing work of the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) in promoting cooperation in implementing the Strategy, and their close cooperation with the terrorism-related Committees. As we have heard from the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, the three expert groups have been able to work cooperatively and share information on specific themes and activities. We welcome these and other ongoing efforts to improve the Committee's procedures and working methods, particularly in order to streamline processes, avoid duplication and create transparency.

We also value the work being done by the Counter-Terrorism Committee and CTED to provide technical assistance to those States that request it, to facilitate Member States' compliance with the relevant decisions of the Security Council, and to assist in implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Security Council sanctions have to be capable of withstanding legal scrutiny, including on the question of due process. There are a number of well-documented legal challenges in various parts of the world to the Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions regime. We therefore welcome the efforts to create fair and transparent procedures for the listing and delisting processes. Similarly, the Office of the Ombudsperson, with the support of Council members, is playing a significant role in strengthening the legitimacy and credibility of the work of the sanctions committees.

South Africa emphasizes that we should look carefully at the proposed appointment of a counter-terrorism coordinator. Such a position should have an appropriate mandate and scope, and take into account the specific mandates of the various United Nations structures dealing with terrorism. My delegation is of the view that the creation of any new office should be measured against its potential contribution to facilitating international efforts to combat terrorism, rather than duplicating existing structures or placing an additional burden on Member States, especially those of the developing world.

The existence of weapons of mass destruction poses a threat to the very existence of humankind. South Africa's concern about the use or threat of use of such weapons also extends to the potential threat that non-State actors may acquire materials that could be used for the development of those weapons and their delivery systems. However, we are heartened by the commitment expressed by many developing countries to implementing their commitments to preventing non-State actors, including terrorists, from acquiring such materials.

It is important that those concerns be addressed with the proper understanding that, as States implement their Chapter VII obligations as contained in resolution 1540 (2004), their national ownership of that process is to be respected. South Africa has tried to reach out in a more even-handed manner to developing countries. We have noticed that one of the key recent trends emerging in the Committee from the developing world's perspective is the increasing number of States that have requested some form of assistance in implementing their legally binding obligations under the resolution, while we are also pleased that resolution 1977 (2011) provides us with a mechanism by which to do so.

In conclusion, the Council has an important role to play in ensuring that the counter-terrorism strategy of the United Nations shall become more transparent and accountable to the wider membership that it represents. South Africa is pleased to note that some progress has been made in that regard, and we hope that our efforts to find a sustainable strategy to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and to eradicate the dangers posed by non-State actors, including the possibility of terrorists' acquiring sensitive materials, remain at the centre of our discussions.

The President: I thank Ambassador Sangqu for his briefing.

I now give the floor to those members of the Council wishing to make statements.

Mrs. DiCarlo (United States of America): The United States would like to commend the work of the Committee Chairs, Ambassadors Wittig, Puri and Sangqu, for their exceptional efforts and strong leadership.

As we look back on the past decade, the Council's sustained commitment to promoting the implementation of resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) has helped to cement a global

consensus against terrorism in all its forms. As a result, we now have stronger legal and policy tools for fighting terrorism at both the national and regional levels.

Even though Osama Bin Laden no longer directs the Al-Qaida organization, we remain gravely concerned that Al-Qaida and its affiliates continue to carry out unconscionable acts of terrorism in diverse regions of the world. The Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities must continue to be vigilant and to adapt to that evolving threat. We particularly encourage the Committee, with the support of its Monitoring Team, to rededicate itself to ensuring the full implementation of the 1267 assets freeze, arms embargo and travel ban. We envision swift and credible responses to reported non-compliance, as well as the provision of training and capacity-building support. We also welcome recent major improvements in the fairness and transparency of the Committee's work, and once again commend the Ombudsperson for her hard work and diligence.

We continue to strongly support the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and its Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) in monitoring and promoting the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). We are particularly pleased that the work of CTED has evolved in recent years to become more hands-on and practical in its focus. In a spirit of innovation and collaboration, CTED should continue to strengthen its work at the bilateral, subregional and regional levels to facilitate capacity-building assistance. We believe that the new United Nations Centre for Counter-Terrorism is already helping to focus the Organization's system on improving coordination on counter-terrorism issues. We also think that the appointment of a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator, as proposed by the Secretary-General, can help foster a more strategic and coordinated United Nations approach to those issues.

In such an environment, we hope that there will be further opportunities for the CTC and CTED to address some of the critical civilian counter-terrorism challenges of today. For example, more work remains to be done in countering the increase in kidnapping for ransom as a means of financing terrorism and other criminal activity. It poses a threat to all nations and their citizens. As a first step to eradicating that practice, we need to help ensure that terrorist hostage-takers cannot enjoy the benefits of ransoms.

As we discussed in last month's Security Council meeting on illicit cross-border trafficking (see S/PV.6760), the United Nations must also improve its ability to help Member States to secure porous or unguarded borders that allow terrorists to travel with impunity. The United Nations has a role to play in helping States to strengthen the capacity of civilian courts to prosecute and convict terrorists. The United States is pleased to continue to support CTED-led projects that bring together practitioners at the regional and subregional levels to address common counter-terrorism challenges.

This year, under our presidency of the Group of Eight (G-8), the United States has promoted the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in both the Global Partnership and the Non-Proliferation Directors Group. The G-8 continues to work closely with the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) to find meaningful ways to respond to requests for assistance from Member States, including by engaging with international governmental organizations that are able to provide programmes and training.

In September 2011, the United States hosted the first country visit by the Committee and its Group of Experts to review our whole-of-Government approach to preventing the proliferation of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. We are pleased to see that other States have similarly invited the Committee to conduct such visits and to share their best practices for implementing resolution 1540 (2004). We hope that that trend continues.

To ensure continued progress, the United States strongly encourages other Member States and regional organizations to contribute to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities. The implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) does more than address proliferation issues. It also benefits Member States by focusing on broader security concerns, such as border controls, trafficking in drugs and weapons, maritime security and public health, all of which contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security.

We are pleased with the progress made by the Committees under the capable leadership of the Chairs. The Council's counter-terrorism efforts will guide and

reinforce the actions of Member States to deter terrorism, including the threats posed by Al-Qaida and its affiliated groups, as well as proliferation efforts by non-State actors.

Mr. Wang Min (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I would like to thank Ambassadors Wittig, Hardeep Singh Puri and Sangqu for their briefings. I also wish to express my appreciation for their leadership as the Chairs of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, and resolution 1540 (2004), respectively.

The Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee is an important counter-terrorism body of the Security Council. Recently, the Committee has made substantial and sustained efforts to review the procedures for listing, de-listing and updating the sanctions list and has made extensive efforts to comprehensively implement resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011). China supports the Committee's efforts to regularly review the sanctions list, as planned, and to strengthen its contact with the relevant States. China welcomes the support provided to the Committee by the Monitoring Team. We note the effective work undertaken by the Office of the Ombudsperson to safeguard the fairness and transparency of the sanctions regime. We hope that Member States will actively cooperate with the Committee's work in order to preserve the authority and effectiveness of the sanctions regime.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) has also undertaken significant work in terms of implementing resolution 1373 (2001) and other relevant resolutions. China would like to express its appreciation for such efforts. China supports the work of the CTC in organizing regional workshops and in providing technical assistance through the CTC Executive Directorate. We hope that the Committee will continue to engage in dialogue with Member States and to help them to strengthen their counter-terrorism capacity.

China is pleased to see that the 1540 Committee has successfully completed its first annual review (S/2012/79, annex), and has made encouraging progress in terms of promoting the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by providing assistance and by undertaking outreach activities. China supports the Committee in continuing with its sound and steady work to further achieve the various goals of resolution 1540 (2004) in a comprehensive, balanced and effective manner, and in assisting countries in fulfilling their obligations under the provisions of the resolution.

The Committee's current priority is to officially establish a group of experts. China supports the Chair in undertaking consultations with all relevant parties and in promptly reaching consensus on outstanding issues. China is ready to work with all parties to promote the international non-proliferation process.

Terrorism is the common enemy of the international community. As a victim of terrorism, China is opposed to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and to the practice of double standards with regard to counter-terrorism. China supports the United Nations and the Security Council playing a key role in international counter-terrorism cooperation, as well as enhanced cooperation and coordination among the relevant bodies.

We support the presidential statement on counter-terrorism recently adopted by the Council (S/PRST/2012/17), and hope that the international community will continue to strengthen its cooperation in preventing and combating terrorism.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We express our gratitude to the Permanent Representatives of Germany, India and South Africa for their reports on the work of the Committees under their leadership. We see the work of the Committees and their increased cooperation as significant preconditions for strengthening the effectiveness of the Security Council's contribution to countering global terrorism, which remains one of the main threats to international peace and security.

We welcome the Security Council's leadership on counter-terrorism, as affirmed by the Security Council meeting on 4 May (see S/PV.6765). The adoption of presidential statement S/PRST/2012/17 at that meeting sends an important signal for the strengthening of joint efforts to counter the existing terrorist threat. The need for such an effort was further underscored by today's terrorist acts in Damascus, in which many civilians, including children, were killed. We call on the Security Council to resolutely condemn that dreadful crime.

We note with satisfaction that the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) has continued to monitor

the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) through the preliminary assessments of implementation and country visits. There is still room for improvement under those mechanisms. The CTC will address such issues, but, in principle, the existing capacities affirm their effectiveness. Through those efforts, the Committee has also demonstrated the specialized experience gained by States. In that context, we set great store by the CTC's proposed visit to Russia.

One of the main outcomes of the Committee's work was the adoption of the global survey of the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005), which sought to counteract incitement to terrorism and its ideological support (see S/2012/16). The review was carried out pursuant to resolution 1963 (2010) and is an important element in implementing the CTC plan of action and resolution 1624 (2005), as initiated by Russia.

Russia actively participated in drafting the report on that important topic. The main findings in the document encouraged the international community, the Security Council, the CTC and the CTC Executive Directorate (CTED) to strengthen their efforts to pre-empt and prevent terrorism and violent extremism and to combat the radicalization of society.

We note that in the review, as in other decisions of the Security Council, mention is made of the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes. This problem requires particular attention and the development of universal legal standards under the auspices of the United Nations.

We also welcome the review's stress on issues related to enhancing intercultural dialogue and interfaith understanding. We view this important long-term undertaking in the context of combating the ideological breeding ground of terrorism and preventing new supporters from joining terrorists' ranks. We continue to support the strengthening of contacts between the CTC and international and regional organizations with a view to the further establishment of an extensive network of counter-terrorist cooperation under the auspices of the United Nations.

We take note of the close and regular contacts of the CTC and the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1540 (2004) with the Meeting of Heads of Special Services, Security Agencies and Law-Enforcement Organizations on terrorism-related issues, which was initiated by the Russian Federal Security Service. Another briefing was held early this year with the representatives of the Meeting to the CTC. We are determined to continue this useful practice.

We welcome the role of the CTED in rendering assistance to the CTC. We support the participation of the Directorate on the basis of the existing mandate, as well as the efforts of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and its cooperation with the expert groups of the specialized Committees of the Security Council.

We note once again that the updated mandate contained in resolution 1963 (2010) sets significant challenges for the Directorate and calls on CTED as a whole and its leadership to continue to work tirelessly. We had hoped that the modifications made last June to the sanctions regime of the 1267 Committee and the splitting off from it of the anti-Taliban component would help promote national reconciliation in Afghanistan. Sadly, at this time that is not happening, as Taliban activity is continuing.

We continue to believe that drawing a clear line between Al-Qaida and mere Taliban supporters is very complex. Al-Qaida does not seem to be about to leave Afghanistan or break off its ties with the Taliban. One can argue that the two organizations have different agendas, but no one can deny that they still have close terrorist ties and cooperation. Against that backdrop, the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) remains one of the most effective mechanisms of the Security Council in the field of counter-terrorism, and its sanctions list should duly reflect the threat emerging from Al-Qaida, which is spreading to new regions. We support the proposal to include additional individuals on the list.

However, the practice of the application of sanctions against entities and individuals involved in terrorist activities should continue to be done on a case-by-case basis and in compliance with due procedures. The expanded powers of the Ombudsperson on delisting and new procedures for the consideration of requests for delisting have ensured an optimal level of transparency for the Committee's procedures thus far.

In considering issues related to further procedural improvements, we must not be carried away by populism or try to involve the Committee in functions

that are outside its remit, but rather work on the basis of fully upholding the fundamental principles and expeditiousness of its work.

Another important task is enhancing the effectiveness of the sanctions mechanisms, which fully depends on the implementation by States of their international commitments in that area.

Regrettably, we are once again forced to note that in that respect outstanding problems remain. The Stockholm-based website Kavkaz Center — the information portal of the terrorist organization Caucus Emirates, which was listed in July 2011 — remains up and running. That is in breach of paragraph 6 of resolution 1989 (2011), whereby this site should be subjected to financial sanctions leading to a cessation of its activities. The Swedish authorities have still not implemented that resolution, effectively allowing the site to continue propagating the ideas of terrorism and religious intolerance.

The prevention of any possibility of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials falling into the hands of terrorists is an important task facing the international community. A key international legal instrument for its implementation remains resolution 1540 (2004), which encourages States to strengthen national systems for monitoring and control in the sphere of non-proliferation.

Russia calls for the full implementation of the resolution by all countries, taking into account the comprehensive long-term nature of its requirements. We welcome the work done by the 1540 Committee and its experts during the reporting period. In particular, we note the adoption of the report on the annual review of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), which takes stock of the progress achieved in 2011 and sets new objectives. We welcome the determination of its Chair to give the activities of the Committee a regular and systemic nature.

The Committee must continue prioritizing issues related to the provision of assistance to States in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by playing a coordinating role in the activities of the international community towards that end. For our part, we are willing to continue actively to support efforts in the area of assistance, including in the context of our cooperation on issues related to resolution 1540 (2004) with the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States. We hope that very soon we will see the establishment of a group of experts for that Committee and that it will once again enjoy full expert support.

In conclusion, I should like to note that the idea of the Secretary-General to create the post of a special representative on counter-terrorism issues merits thorough consideration by the States Members of the United Nations during the upcoming review of the Global Strategy. Its implementation could enhance the coordination of the activities carried out in this sphere of the numerous organs both within the United Nations system and outside. However, it should not lead to any changes in the mandates of those organs or be detrimental to them. That applies above all to the counter-terrorist structures of the Security Council.

Mr. Rosenthal (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): I wish to begin by thanking Ambassadors Peter Wittig, Hardeep Singh Puri and Baso Sangqu for their informative briefings and for the skill and dedication they have displayed at the helm of the Security Council subsidiary Committees that they respectively head.

First, with respect to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), I should like to note the current threat posed by Al-Qaida. We are aware that sanctions regimes have contributed to undermining sources of terrorist funding and have succeeded in suppressing acts of terrorism. However, there is evidence that the threat posed by Al-Qaida continues to evolve; thus the Committee, with the first-rate assistance of the Monitoring Team, must continue to analyse the threat and adapt its work to the changing nature of terrorism and its diverse manifestations. This must obviously be duly reflected on the list.

We welcome the improvements made by the Committee concerning procedural guarantees and the consideration of applications for listing and delisting. Resolution 1989 (2011) represents not only progress in terms of the rights of the persons and entities that are included on the list, but it also makes it possible to strengthen the credibility of the sanctions regime. By delisting persons and entities who and which should not be on the list, we have made the list into a living reflection of the current state of the threat.

We urge the Committee to continue its work, taking into account the opinions of other Member States, particularly those of States whose inhabitants or nationals appear on the list. However, such interaction

must take place in full respect of the independence of the recommendations of the Ombudsperson, the confidentiality of the process and established deadlines and procedures, which provide legal certainty to the mechanisms for listing and delisting.

That brings me to the work carried out by the Ombudsperson, whom we congratulate and thank for her independence, professionalism and courage. We were pleased by that experience and are interested in developing the idea put forth by some States to extend that position to all sanctions committees.

We believe that the terms of reference establishing that office did not limit it solely to the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, but included all of the others. The work of the Security Council must be transparent and respect the rule of law, thus an ombudsperson for each of the committees would be eminently justifiable.

Secondly, over the last decade the role of the Security Council in the fight against terrorism has grown and evolved very quickly. There have been many successes since the adoption of resolution 1373 (2001). My delegation is grateful for the outstanding support provided on that issue by both the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.

My country believes that for there to continue to be progress, first, closer dialogue among United Nations Member States is crucial; secondly, work must continue on developing mechanisms to provide technical assistance to those countries that request it, and thirdly, a regional approach must be adopted, as paying special attention to the specificities of each region enables greater understanding of the challenges and recommendations applicable to the reality of each country.

Another important point to add is that greater emphasis must be put on the conditions that foster terrorism and allow it to spread. Guatemala believes that effective efforts to counter terrorism depend on our ability to address successfully the economic, social and political conditions that feed the phenomenon. Thus, the prevention of terrorist acts and the elimination of incitements to terrorism, including extremism and intolerance, are vitally important and should serve as a departure point in seeking a lasting solution to the threat of terrorism.

In that vein, we support the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005) and welcome the global inquiry into its implementation. We highly value the work to assess the various levels of experience and problems of countries and regions in relation to the implementation of the resolution.

Thirdly, resolution 1540 (2004) has been used as one of the main international instruments in preventing weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials from falling into the hands of non-State actors, in particular, terrorists. Resolution 1977 (2011) determined the principal role of the United Nations and the Security Council in those matters and established the conditions needed to encourage multilateral endeavours.

The Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) plays a fundamental role in coordinating and enhancing the efficiency of the work carried out. We believe that the Committee and its Expert Group have worked in a commendable fashion during the reporting period in promoting intensified international activity aimed at combating the risks and threats of proliferation.

Guatemala welcomes the measures taken to ensure consistency in the work of the Committee and believes it is important to continue those efforts. The 1540 Committee has also proved to be a vital mechanism in supporting and assisting Member States through continued efforts aimed at promoting and developing their abilities to counter those threats. Guatemala acknowledges and pays tribute to the work carried out in that area.

With respect to the work of the Expert Group of the 1540 Committee, we believe that their work pursuant to resolution 1977 (2011) is of the greatest importance. Without the support provided by the Group to Member States, in particular the developing countries, it would prove difficult for many of them to draw up action plans, submit national reports and make progress on the measures necessary to comply with the provisions of the resolution. We wish, therefore, to underscore that the Committee must refer its recommendations on the eight experts selected in accordance with the previously agreed criteria, in particular a broad geographical representation, to the Secretary-General as quickly as possible, as they

reflect the legitimate interests of the international community for a balanced and equitable representation. Resolution 1977 (2011) is clear in establishing the criteria for the selection of the experts, compliance with which is important to ensure that the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) maintains its legitimacy.

Guatemala trusts that the subsidiary bodies of the Security Council will continue to promote cooperation among Member States and help them to overcome obstacles to implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

The Permanent Representatives of Germany, India and South Africa, as well as deserving of our gratitude, may also be assured that we will provide our full support to their work.

Mr. Alzate (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to thank Ambassadors Peter Wittig of Germany, Hardeep Singh Puri of India and Baso Sangqu of South Africa for their detailed reports on the work of the counter-terrorism Committees and for their dynamic leadership of them. The recommendations and analyses they have presented to the Council all deserve careful analysis.

The Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism (CTC) and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) contribute to strengthening all capacities of Member States related to implementation of their obligations pursuant to the various international instruments and to promoting international cooperation to counter terrorism. It is therefore crucial to strengthen coordination activities, continuously assess the working methods and strengthen the tools available in order to promote assistance and cooperation among Member States.

Colombia wishes to underscore the importance of the work being carried out, pursuant to their mandates, by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the Monitoring Team of the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and Entities and the Expert Group of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). There is a need for greater information-sharing, for more coordination of visits to countries under their respective mandates, for more efficient delivery and follow-up of technical assistance, and for closer relations with regional and international organizations and organs.

I should like to refer to the 1267 and 1989 Committee. Strict compliance with the provisions of resolution 1989 (2011) is essential. The effective implementation of sanctions depends on keeping the list current and on the quality of information provided by Member States to update it, adding, keeping or removing individuals or entities. The sanctions regime reforms introduced in resolution 1989 (2011) have promoted due process, transparency and the quality of the list. The new procedure for updating the list represents real progress, especially as regards individuals no longer living or entities that either no longer exist or about which there is so little identifying information that effective action is impossible. It is essential to comply with the procedures and timetables provided for in the resolution provides.

Bolstering the Office of the Ombudsperson and its mandate continue to be critical to the legitimacy of the sanction regime. The number of de-listing requests processed by the Office, its reports to the Committee and the decisions taken to date as a result show that the Office effectively promotes transparency and safeguards rights. We strongly believe that such a mechanism should be established for all sanctions committees.

I now turn to the CTC and the recent CTED global survey of the implementation by Member States of Security Council resolution 1624 (2005) (see S/2012/16), outlining the significant achievements of Member States' efforts to fight terrorism. The report focuses in particular on respect for human rights and the growing awareness that listening to victims is an important strategic element in preventing terrorism and incitement to terrorist acts. The Directorate should focus on that aspect even more. We must concentrate on protecting and defending the rights of victims and their families. They must be listened to, and Member States must be provided with the necessary mechanisms to offer assistance, heal their pain and take concrete measures to protect and promote their rights. My delegation underlines the Committee's recent work to review the procedure for preliminary evaluations for the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), so as to improve its value as an information-gathering tool. We

hope that the new procedure will facilitate dialogue with the Member States.

The proliferation of all types of weapons of mass destruction and related materials, along with the risk that they fall into the hands of non-State armed groups and terrorists, is a serious threat to international peace and security. It is therefore crucial to maintain close cooperation and effective coordination among the relevant anti-terrorism committees and their respective groups of experts.

Colombia recognizes and commends the work being done at the regional, subregional and international levels to bolster implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). We have therefore convened several meetings and workshops on strengthening national capacities through cooperation and aid. The first seminar for the Andean region on resolution 1540 (2004), held last March in Bogota, helped to identify areas of cooperation among members and ways of improving relations between Andean States and regional and international organizations.

Resolution 1977 (2011), extending the mandate of the 1540 Committee for 10 years, established a group of experts to support the Committee in fulfilling its functions, based on the expertise and wide regional representation of its members. My delegation reiterates the importance of honouring those criteria in the selection process in which the Committee is currently engaged.

We believe that the Secretary-General's recommendation to designate a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator should be seriously discussed by the General Assembly in its review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In order to avoid duplicating existing structures, the Assembly should bear in mind that the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force was established to ensure coordination and coherence in the United Nations efforts to confront the international scourge of terrorism, as it carries out the principles and purposes of the Charter.

To facilitate the full implementation and fulfilment of obligations under Security Council resolutions on terrorism, we believe it essential to increase technical assistance to Member States in building their national capacities and to provide the tools they need to pursue their fight against terrorism.

Mr. Briens (France) (*spoke in French*): I thank Ambassadors Wittig, Puri and Sanqu for their briefings and for their work chairing the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011), 1373 (2001) and 1549 (2004). The Council has recently had the chance to demonstrate its resolve in the fight against terrorism in the debate held on 4 May (see S/PV.6765). The work of the three Committees is a crucial response to the ongoing and varied threats posed by terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

I align myself with the statement to be made by the Head of the Delegation of the European Union.

The threat posed by Al-Qaida has changed but remains an immediate danger. Efforts to improve the implementation of resolution 1989 (2011) must therefore be pursued. In that regard, I commend the work of the Monitoring Team, which, through regular contact with Member States, contributes to improving the implementation of sanctions. It has also helped to make the sanctions list more functional by finding mechanisms to improve its accuracy and by modifying its procedure so as to facilitate its implementation and by States and financial institutions.

To continue to adapt to the threat, it is important that the Committees continue its cooperation with INTERPOL and the Financial Action Task Force. Inasmuch as the threat posed by Al-Qaida has expanded to new regions, we believe that the Monitoring Team should concentrate more intensively on those areas.

We recall that resolution 1989 (2011) improved guarantees of due process, thanks especially to its strengthening of the role of the Ombudsperson, whose excellent work we commend. Strengthening the role of the Ombudsperson not only promotes the rights of individuals and entities on the list, but is also a key factor in guaranteeing the list's legitimacy.

The implementation of sanctions against Al-Qaida is crucial, but we know that it alone cannot constitute a response to the threat of terrorism. All States must therefore build up prevention and suppression mechanisms. The Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), with the support of its Executive Directorate, helps States to do that. The Committee has studied in depth the resources and needs of all States, thanks to resolution 1373 (2001), producing preliminary evaluations. We commend the efforts under way to improve that analysis tool.

Since the last Council meeting on the subject (see S/PV.6658), the Committee has also studied the Directorate's global survey of the implementation by Member States of resolution 1624 (2005) (see S/2012/16), which aims to prevent incitements to terrorist acts. It is vital that the report dedicate a section to upholding human rights on that complex subject. We also wish to welcome the efforts of the Committee, and in particular of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), in involving other organizations in those activities, in particular the contacts on the Sahel between CTED and the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum.

Finally, the holding of thematic workshops should be encouraged, as they allow us to raise specific subjects related to countering terrorism at the regional level and to step up regional cooperation. As an example, I would cite regional workshops conducted on the prevention of the abusive use of non-profit organizations for funding terrorism. We know the difficulties that certain non-governmental organizations can encounter in trying to protect themselves from that risk.

Nuclear, radiological, biological and chemical terrorism remains one of the main threats to our security. The Council reiterated that point in its presidential statement of 19 April (S/PRST/2012/14) during the debate on nuclear security (see S/PV.6753). Progress has been made in responding to the threat. The issues and actions arising from resolution 1540 (2004) since 2004 have been widely taken up throughout the United Nations, and States have adopted numerous measures to implement the resolution. In particular, since we are meeting just a few weeks after the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit, major efforts have been made at the very highest levels to better combat the nuclear terror threat and to safeguard the most vulnerable sources.

In that respect, we are pleased that the Seoul Summit took fully into account the question of radiological terrorism. It also provided an opportunity for reiterating our collective support for existing instruments and mechanisms to strengthen nuclear security and highlight the need for the relevant resolutions to be fully implemented by all the States concerned. For its part, France recently revised its rules for the physical protection of nuclear materials. All those efforts must be continued ahead of the third summit in the Netherlands in 2014.

Regarding the 1540 Committee, resolution 1977 (2011) gave it the tools to better carry out its mandate. We are welcome the progress that the Committee has made in its implementation since our last meeting by conveying to the Council its annual review of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and its recommendations for the group of experts. But that is not enough. It is vital above all for the group of experts to be established. Only three experts are currently helping the Committee, and their contracts will expire on 31 May. That situation is not tenable when the workload continues to grow.

Moreover, it is necessary for the Committee to define, as stipulated in the resolution, specific priorities for its work and to develop knowledge-sharing and good practices. It is by making full use of those new instruments that the 1540 Committee will see its capacities improved and that we will be able to offer real help to countries in fighting proliferation and adapting to new challenges in that realm.

I now come to assistance in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). As the Council knows, my country coordinates the Working Group on that issue. Much progress has been made, although there is still a long way to go. The Committee regularly updates its database of requests for and offers of assistance; that data was presented at the Group of Eight (G-8) meeting in Washington, D.C., in late January. In that respect, we welcome the attempt of the Committee and its experts to step up dialogue with the G-8 working group in that area. Moreover, the development of country-specific visits is a step forward that should be continued. Finally, other efforts are under way to improve the Committee's procedures for providing assistance, better respond to relevant requests, and continue regular dialogue with the various stakeholders regarding assistance.

It is paramount not only to continue unceasingly to improve coordination among the United Nations counter-terrorism committees, but also to strengthen cooperation with other United Nations forums and external forums, for example, the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum. We are counting on the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to enhance that cooperation.

Finally, as the review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy will take place in June, it is vital to strengthen coordination of the

various United Nations counter-terrorism bodies. In that respect, we support the recommendation of the Secretary-General to create the post of a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator.

Mr. Parham (United Kingdom): Let me thank the Chairs of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), 1373 (2001), and 1540 (2004), Ambassadors Wittig, Puri and Sangqu, for their comprehensive briefings today and for their effective leadership of those Committees.

Let me start with the Al-Qaida sanctions regime. I would like to focus on two issues here: on the role of the Ombudsperson and on the importance of robustly implementing the sanctions.

The United Kingdom strongly supports the Office of the Ombudsperson. Ensuring that the Ombudsperson has access to all possible sources of information, including classified information, is crucial to the process. The United Kingdom is among those States that have concluded an arrangement with the Ombudsperson through which to share confidential information relevant to de-listing requests. Such agreements reinforce our collective endeavour to ensure that the sanctions remain effective, responsive and fair. We encourage all Member States to enter into their own agreements with the Ombudsperson.

We must not be complacent about the global terrorist threat posed by Al-Qaida. We encourage the Sanctions Committee to continue its work to ensure that sanctions are implemented robustly. We welcome the effective work of the Monitoring Team to that end.

The Al-Qaida sanctions remain highly relevant. They play a vital role in disrupting groups and individuals, making it more difficult for them to operate. The United Kingdom will continue to work actively to ensure that the list of those designated best represents the threat we face today.

The United Nations remains the cornerstone of the international community's counter-terrorism efforts. We know that terrorism can be defeated only when Member States meet their obligations under the relevant United Nations resolutions and cooperate fully to contest the terrorists' narrative and to prevent their activities. In that context, we condemn today's bomb attacks in Damascus, which have claimed over 40 lives and injured more than 300 people, most of them civilians. As the British Foreign Secretary said today, "[y]et again it is the people of Syria who are suffering as a result of the repression and violence, which must come to an end".

We commend the valuable work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) under the leadership of Mr. Mike Smith. CTED's work with Member States to help build capacity to combat terrorism remains essential. Greater coherence between the various parts of the United Nations counter-terrorism apparatus will further reinforce our efforts. That will require CTED and Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and all relevant United Nations agencies and offices to work together in a cooperative and mutually supportive way. That is why the United Kingdom supports the Secretary-General's announcement that he will seek to appoint a counter-terrorism coordinator. We look forward to working with all Member States, through the Security Council and the General Assembly, to make that a reality.

In that context, we also welcome the initial meetings following the creation of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, generously funded by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Centre can provide much needed support to the CTITF's activities.

As we work together in combating terrorism, we do not forget the particular challenges posed to our collective security by proliferation. We encourage States to provide updates as they make progress in implementing resolution 1540 (2004). States should recognize that action undertaken, for example, to improve the security of information relevant to weapons of mass destruction is relevant to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Making such linkages will enable more effective reporting to the Committee.

The United Kingdom encourages all States, where appropriate, to engage with the international nuclear security initiatives and conventions and, for those that have yet to ratify the International Atomic Energy Agency's amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, to do so.

Finally, we hope that the composition of the 1540 expert group can be quickly resolved to ensure that the Committee will continue to benefit from its valuable support.

Mr. Wittig (Germany): I should like to make some brief comments in my national capacity, first with regard to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and secondly on the Committee established pursuant to resolution resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities. I preface this statement by saying that Germany aligns itself with the statements to be delivered on behalf of the European Union and of the group of like-minded countries.

At the most recent briefing of the three Committee Chairs on 14 November 2011 (see S/PV.6658), I announced an industry outreach conference in Germany in order to promote the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Six months later, I am pleased to report that my Government, together with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, successfully organized a conference of international, regional and subregional industry associations at Wiesbaden, Germany, from 23 to 25 April. The conference, we felt, was innovative, useful and forward-looking. It was innovative because never before had a conference related to resolution 1540 (2004) brought together such a variety of different actors, in particular from the private sector. Through over 25 participating industry associations, interaction between the 1540 Committee and industry in more than 100 countries — representing several thousand private enterprises — has become a reality.

The conference was useful because it fulfilled requirements spelled out in the Council's resolutions to reach out to industry in the fight against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Industry associations expressed their willingness to disseminate relevant practices. More awareness-raising and the establishment of a two-way communication channel between the Committee and the private sector are only two of many tasks deriving from the event.

It was forward-looking, we felt, because many if not all participants expressed their desire for a follow-up mechanism. The Wiesbaden process will be continued. My country stands ready to actively contribute to a substantial follow-up in order to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). More specifically, the Germany Foreign Ministry would be willing to co-host further conferences and focused workshops on a regular basis. Germany also counts on the commitment of partners in this regard.

I should like to make some additional remarks on the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee. Germany attaches the utmost importance to the implementation of the mandate of the Ombudsperson, who is tasked with assisting the Committee in ensuring that the right of listed individuals to a fair, independent and effective process is safeguarded. As Chair of the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, we will continue to focus on ensuring that procedures and timelines are respected and reasoned decisions provided. We commend the Ombudsperson, Judge Kimberley Prost, for her professional work and her tireless efforts.

In conclusion, regarding cooperation between the three counter-terrorism-related Committees, Germany shares the view that there is room for further improvement. The degree of cooperation should be taken to an even more ambitious level of integration, also in view of the proposal of the Secretary-General that Member States approve the establishment of a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator. Committees and expert groups should agree on representing each other at outreach events more frequently. Cases in which representatives of more than one expert group participate in the same outreach event should be limited to well-reasoned exceptions. This will help to save limited resources for more focused and effective outreach activities, and to enhance the Security Council's impact in the field of counter-terrorism.

Mr. Tarar (Pakistan): I would like to thank Ambassador Peter Wittig, Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri and Ambassador Baso Sangqu for their briefings today. We appreciate the coordination among the three Committees and their efforts in promoting greater transparency and dialogue with Member States concerning their respective areas of activities.

We share the view of the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities that the threat of terrorism is evolving, that the mechanism for the implementation of sanctions measures needs to be tailored to the threat, and that fair and clear procedures have been introduced by the Ombudsperson, at least in the de-listing processes, if not in all processes of the Committee.

We are of the view that the evolving threat of terrorism has taken new forms, such as individuals

radicalized by Internet and extremist websites in various parts of the world. In this context, it is important to ensure that the list of targeted individuals sufficiently reflects the changing nature of the threat posed by Al-Qaida. We agree that the list needs to be accurate, up to date and user-friendly if the implementation of the sanctions is to be successful. We have noted the efforts of the 1267 Sanctions Committee to bring clarity to its working methods and to improve its guidelines. We hope that the Committee shall continue to bring greater transparency to its work.

Pakistan appreciates the fact that the role of the Ombudsperson has been enhanced by resolution 1989 (2011). Since November 2011, four individuals and 23 entities have been de-listed on the recommendation of the Ombudsperson. We hope that a similar role will also be devised for the Ombudsperson in the listing processes. We also expect that the demonstration effect of the Ombudsperson's positive contribution will lead us to introduce this institution into all other sanctions regimes in order to ensure due process and transparency in their work.

We feel that visits to States by the Monitoring Team and expert groups should be used to foster cooperation by facilitating the provision of technical assistance and promoting constructive dialogue. We hope that post-visit briefings and reports shall continue to be made on a regular basis. These have been useful in enhancing the Committee's understanding of issues and promoting transparency.

The biggest challenge to the sanctions regime, however, comes from the increasing number of court cases. For example, A number of listings have been challenged in Pakistani courts. The decisions of domestic and international courts and tribunals on the Al-Qaida sanctions regime have not only gained publicity but brought to the fore the legal challenges faced by the sanctions regime. It remains to be seen whether new changes will satisfy courts around the world, because the legal community is more inclined to welcome verifiable evidence that could be acceptable in a court of law. The questions of due process and effective remedy should therefore be at the heart of the Committee's work.

Terrorism has become the bane of all countries alike. Resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) have no doubt created equal obligations for all of us. Terrorism is not a localized or region-specific problem. The modern manifestations and mutations of terrorism, which range from the radicalization of individuals to financing of well-known groups from various parts of the world, endanger the peace and security of the entire world. The measures to combat this problem should therefore be based on equality of obligations and international cooperation and coordination.

Global cooperation against terrorism has been highly successful. Determined and collective action has contained and disrupted the violent agendas of the terrorists. The immediate and short-term anti-terrorist response must, however, be accompanied by a clear, long term strategy for success in ensuring an end to this murderous tactic. Such a strategy must include the following elements: addressing the root causes of terrorism, including, inter alia, delegitimizing the terrorist's cause; we must do more to address issues such as the denial of the right to self-determination, military intervention, and the use of force; addressing broader and structural issues, including political and economic injustices; and ensuring that counter-terrorism activities are in full conformity with international law and respect the sovereignty of States and fundamental human rights.

We support the Counter-Terrorism Committee's efforts to promote and facilitate the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). We have noted the global survey of the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005). The issue of the prohibition of incitement to commit terrorist acts is very complex. On the one hand is the imperative of preventing incitement to terrorist acts, while, on the other is the challenge of ensuring freedom of expression, and hence the need to maintain the delicate balance. Besides, all efforts to counter incitement must be undertaken in the light of the agreed principle that terrorism and extremism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, race, ethnicity, faith, value system, culture or society.

The delegation of Pakistan supports the activities of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), particularly in the area of capacity-building. CTED's regional workshops in Asia and Africa on specific topics will go a long way towards enhancing the capacities of States to effectively counter terrorism. Pakistan has been regularly participating in regional workshops organized by CTED. Pakistan participated in the fifth regional workshop in New Delhi in March 2012. We are planning to hold the sixth regional workshop for police

officers, prosecutors and judges in South Asia on counter-terrorism, in Islamabad later this year.

Pakistan shares the global concerns over the possibility of non-State actors acquiring weapons and materials of mass destruction, as well as their means of delivery. At the national level, we have undertaken several legislative, organizational and administrative measures to address those potential challenges. We have filed four comprehensive reports on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). The 1540 Committee and the experts assisting it play an important and complementary role to the established treaty regimes and international organizations in the area of weapons of mass destruction. We will continue to support all international efforts to promote fair and equitable solutions to non-proliferation and disarmament challenges.

Coordination and cooperation among experts of the three Committees is a useful mechanism to assist Member States in the implementation of Security Council resolutions. In undertaking those efforts, the Committees and their respective experts work towards the shared objective of preventing terrorist activities and addressing illicit trafficking in weapons or materials of mass destruction and the means to deliver them. There are areas of synergy in their work, such as supporting States in building their capacity, law enforcement and border controls. Yet the Committees have distinct mandates and focus. This differentiated nature of mandate and focus needs to be adhered to. The duplication and overlap of activities and mandate is best avoided.

The composition of experts in the Committees needs rationalization and reform. With the shift in the core area of work of these Committees from establishing frameworks to implementation, particularly through assistance and capacity-building, it would be prudent to diversify the pool of experts from diverse geographic areas. Such an effort would also help advance an even better level of understanding and ownership of those important issues to a large number of Member States.

We value the information exchange among the experts and their efforts to save costs by representing alternatively at outreach events and joint meetings within their respective mandates. We look forward to receiving their joint feedback and assessment on areas of overlap and synergies in their work, mandate and activities.

Mr. Bouchaara (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): First of all, allow me to thank you, Mr. President, for having organized this debate. I would also like to thank the Permanent Representatives of India, Germany and South Africa for their briefings on the work of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004). We commend the outstanding work they have done and assure them of Morocco's ongoing support as they carry out the important tasks of three Committees they preside over. Morocco has been able to cooperate in an exemplary fashion with the three Committees and their groups of experts and, as a Council member, shall spare no effort in the collective efforts to strengthen their role and fine-tune their actions.

The very useful discussion that the Council held on 4 May (S/PV.6765), at the commendable initiative of the Republic of Azerbaijan, provided an ideal opportunity to reaffirm our determination to pursue our joint efforts to strengthen and adapt the actions of the Security Council, including those of the three Committees, to counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

We welcome the fact that the Security Council is continuing to take important measures to consolidate the work of the counter-terrorism Committees and to adapt their mandates and work to the evolution of the threat and the needs of Member States. In that regard, we support the endeavours of the three Committees and the groups of experts that help them to achieve greater coordination, consistency and synergy as they implement their respective mandates. We also support greater transparency and increased dialogue with Member States in order to identify their needs and respond appropriately to their requests for assistance.

After more than a decade, the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) is still indispensable to our collective fight against terrorism. The revision of its mandate after the adoption of resolution 1963 (2010) made it possible to place greater emphasis on specific areas requiring more attention and action. We commend the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate for completing the global survey of the implementation by Member States of resolution 1624 (2005) (see S/2012/16). The useful conclusions of that survey are an important contribution to Member States

efforts to counter new forms of radicalization and incitement to terrorism.

Morocco supports the general approach of the CTC, aiming, on the one hand, to consolidate a strategic and transparent approach and, on the other, to enhance the Committee's role of facilitating and coordinating the supply of technical assistance in building Member States' capacities to combat terrorism. The organization by the Executive Directorate of thematic workshops in a regional and transregional approach to technical aspects in combating terrorism remains a useful tool in building the capacities of Member States and improving the coordination of their counter-terrorism services. We encourage the Executive Directorate to explore, together with all of its partners, intensifying activities to foster dialogue, cooperation and coordination among Member States, in particular at the regional and subregional levels.

With regard to the concerns voiced by Council members in the course of the high-level meeting on 4 May, in particular on the critical situation in the Sahel, we believe that the CTC, as well as the 1267 and 1540 Committees, should pay particular attention to that region, which has recently witnessed a growth in terrorist attacks and in the degree of sophistication of such attacks carried out by groups operating in zones beset by political, economic and social problems. Morocco is ready to support all specific actions of the Council aimed at countering the risk of terrorism in the Sahel region.

The sanctions regime established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) is one of the most effective tools of the United Nations to combat terrorism and remains a symbol of our collective resolve to counter the threat of Al-Qaida and associated groups. We commend the regular review process for the consolidated list, which has improved its quality and consequently made the sanctions regime more effective. It is imperative that this exercise be continued with the same perseverance and discipline in order to maintain the credibility of the regime and keep it aligned with the evolution of the threat and the important changes in the modus operandi of terrorist groups. In that regard, we note with interest the recommendations made to the Committee by the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team in its twelfth report, particularly with regard to the means to adapt the sanctions regime to the regional spread of the Al-Qaida threat.

By and large, we remain in favour of greater coordination with Member States, aimed at supporting them as they carry out their obligations under the sanctions regime. It is important to take into account, as far as possible, the specific context of each region and the particular challenges each country faces. The continuous reform of the Committee's procedures in order to make them more equitable and transparent is an important goal that still captures the attention of all Committee members and encourages them to action. Here, we would like to pay tribute to the Ombudsperson, Ms. Kimberley Prost, for her commitment and the remarkable job she has done.

Regarding the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), Morocco, which has presented an initial report and additional information, welcomes the work of the Committee and its role and that of its Chair in combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and preventing their being acquired by non-State actors. The first report (S/2012/79) prepared pursuant to resolution 1977 (2011) and submitted to the Council in February 2012, reflects the efforts of the Committee in that regard and contains the Committee's proposals to make its work more effective in the future and to improve its interaction with Member States. In that connection, we would like to emphasize how important it is to bolster activities involving assistance and international cooperation to meet the needs of Member States. The guidelines laid out by the Committee should provide a basis for dialogue with Member States in order to identify shortcomings and difficulties in implementing the resolutions.

Lastly, if it is to be able to fulfil its role of supporting national implementation efforts, the Committee must have the expertise of a highly qualified panel of experts at its disposal. In that respect, it is urgent for the Committee to complete the appointment of the new members of the group of experts, taking into account the type of expertise needed and the principle of geographical representation.

Mr. Kandangha-Bariki (Togo) (*spoke in French*): I would like, on behalf of the delegation of Togo, to express my gratitude to the Chairs of the three Committees, Ambassadors Peter Wittig, Hardeep Singh Puri and Baso Sangqu, for their briefings, and to the members of the panel for their very helpful work. I also take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the role played by the Ombudsperson, Ms. Kimberly Prost,

in seeking out the information needed for the proper implementation of the relevant resolutions. Finally, I would like to express our appreciation for the commendable work carried out by the monitoring team of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities and the experts from the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.

Today's briefings have highlighted the need for the international community to create true synergy in the work of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), with a view to effectively countering the scourges that threaten international peace and security.

A few days ago, on 4 May (see S/PV.6765), the Security Council deliberated on the threats to international peace and security and on the need for cooperation among States themselves, among non-State organizations, and between States and these organizations to prevent the threat from perpetuating itself and to prevent certain materials from falling into the hands of terrorist groups such as Al-Qaida.

The briefings just presented reveal in a number of respects how the three Committees have addressed this need to cooperate in order to confront terrorism. In that respect, my delegation would like to commend the work carried out by the Committees, which remain a vital part of the institutional arsenal of the Security Council in its ongoing struggle against terrorism. This struggle requires the cooperation and assistance of — as well as capacity-building for — subregional entities charged with promoting the implementation of the three relevant resolutions of the Council.

It goes without saying that our world today is, even more than yesterday, haunted by the spectre of new threats to international peace and security, which, needless to say, involve weapons of mass destruction, nuclear weapons and other dangerous materials falling into the hands of non-State actors. We must all pull together to face those threats. The briefings just presented to us were sufficiently enlightening. Nevertheless, my country would like to make the following observations.

First, it is gratifying to note that, in the most recent report presented by those Committees to the Council, significant headway has been made in terms of cooperation among States and regional and subregional organizations in implementing the aforementioned resolutions and in terms of capacity-building for the various stakeholders and the assistance that is given to them in adopting best practices to fulfil their commitments pursuant to those resolutions.

In the area under consideration, we welcome the willingness of States to provide the necessary information, allowing the Committees to deliver on commitments linked to their respective mandates. The merit of those positive developments reflects well on both the group of experts and the Committees.

Next, turning to the 1373 Committee, we note that the assessment of progress in implementation reflects the need to improve procedures for States' implementation of the resolution. However, the assessment calls for greater awareness and capacity-building, especially for States, in order to enable them to better understand this document, which we believe could yield more conclusive results. We call on the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate to continue its tireless work on behalf of States.

Turning to the 1540 Committee, we wish to note that this Committee is currently revitalizing its expert capacities, which are, nevertheless, doing excellent work, which will enable the Committee, as far as possible, to deliver on its mandate. However, my delegation would like to recall — and this is a key concern for the Committee in the context of resolution 1977 (2011) — that the appointment of experts should take into account their expertise and the principle of geographic distribution. In my country's view, the resolution considers those two criteria as cumulative. We therefore hope that those criteria will retain the attention of the Council in order to make the Committee more inclusive and to allow a better reflection of the concerns of all regions.

Togo would like to invite States to consider, moreover, the work before these various entities, in particular the 1540 Committee, in order to consider strengthening it in terms of structure and technical manpower.

Finally, my delegation encourages the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and

entities to continue working towards greater streamlining, in terms of criteria and listing and delisting procedures in order to prevent terrorists who have supposedly reformed or died in the meantime from taking up arms again, thus jeopardizing or undoing years of hard work and sacrifice.

Mr. Moraes Cabral (Portugal): I would first like to thank Ambassadors Peter Wittig, Hardeep Singh Puri and Baso Sangqu for their comprehensive briefings and to commend them for their work, leadership and commitment in chairing the three Committees focused on the fight against terrorism.

The statement to be made on behalf of the European Union naturally reflects Portugal's views on this important issue. Allow me, however, to emphasize some aspects of particular relevance to my country, starting with the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, which has produced some intensive and commendable work, particularly regarding the review of its sanctions list.

On the delisting side, we are pleased to express our appreciation for the significant improvements introduced by the Office of the Ombudsperson in the area of fair and clear procedures for delisting, thus reinforcing the sanctions mechanism and its efficiency. We take this opportunity to highlight once again the active role of Judge Kimberly Prost in achieving these goals according to her mandate. Like the United Kingdom, we have concluded an agreement for sharing classified information with Judge Prost, and we encourage other States to do the same. In our view, the success achieved so far and the role played by the Ombudsperson in that sanctions regime should encourage us to look at the next logical step — the introduction of the same mechanism into the framework of other United Nations sanctions regimes — an idea that deserves our active support and that of other members of the Council.

On the other side of that issue, and again in order to reinforce the efficiency of the sanctions regime, we believe that enhanced efforts should be made to continue to update the list in order to include those individuals and entities currently leading or supporting Al-Qaida or its affiliated groups but not yet listed. We also welcome the highly effective work that continues to be done under the Committee's guidance by its Monitoring Group.

Concerning the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, I would like to highlight three aspects. First is the need to encourage and assist States in developing comprehensive and integrated counter-terrorism and preventive strategies: strategies that are not only devoted to law enforcement and reactive approaches, but are also designed to address the conditions conducive to radicalization and recruitment for terrorist purposes, which means that they must include consistent preventive efforts and measures of a structural and cross-cutting nature. We would advocate that the special meeting to be held by the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) later this year be devoted to that important matter.

Secondly, we very much value the attention given to the efforts made by CTC and the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) to help strengthen, when requested, multilateral and bilateral technical assistance programmes to aid States and regions especially affected by terrorism. Indeed, a regional approach often seems to make for the most effective framework, by promoting regional solutions more tailored to realities on the ground and better adapted to respond to similar challenges and build on common strengths and capacities. In that regard we welcome the CTED thematic and regional presentations on West Africa, the Horn of Africa, the Sahel and the Maghreb.

Last but not least, let me reiterate the special importance of ensuring that counter-terrorism measures fully comply with obligations under international law, particularly in the areas of international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law. Full respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law is also, in our view, an indispensable tool for effective counter-radicalization and for combating terrorism narratives and appeals. In that regard, we continue to support the efforts undertaken by the Committee and CTED and look forward to the upcoming thematic presentation on human rights and counter-terrorism.

Turning now to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), I want to commend its fulfilment of the main provisions set out in resolution 1977 (2011), namely, the first annual review on progress made by Member States and other stakeholders in implementing resolution 1540 (2004), as well as the recommendations put forward by the Committee for the establishment of a group of experts. The group of experts will play a fundamental role in

assisting the Committee, and I share the sense of urgency about completing the process. Finally, I would also like to thank the Office for Disarmament Affairs for its readiness to engage with the 1540 Committee in supporting implementation of the resolution at the regional, subregional and national levels.

To conclude, I would like to reiterate our support for every measure that could be instrumental in maximizing coordination among all the United Nations entities relevant to efforts to prevent and combat terrorism. Among those tools, we believe that United Nations political missions and offices in the field — which are particularly well placed for assessing terrorism risks and forms of violent extremism — should be given mandates and resources adequate to advising and assisting on appropriate preventive efforts. As with many other international threats, we believe strongly that prevention is key to achieving medium- and long-term success in fighting terrorism.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as representative of Azerbaijan.

To begin with, I would like to thank Ambassadors Wittig, Puri and Sangqu for their comprehensive briefings, and to express our appreciation for their second year of excellent work and professional leadership of the three Committees with counter-terrorism mandates.

Azerbaijan strongly supports close cooperation and effective coordination among those Committees. The presidential statement adopted by the Council last week (S/PRST/2012/17) reiterated the need for enhancing continued cooperation among the Committees and their groups of experts. Information exchange, joint outreach activities and country visits, coordinated activities with international and regional organizations, joint meetings and representation are all important tools for effective cooperation. In that regard, we are pleased to note the increased cooperation in some areas among the expert groups, and hope to see greater collaboration in other areas as well.

Regarding the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, I would like to underline the enormous importance of the full implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 1963 (2010) by Member States, and to stress the crucial role of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate in promoting and facilitating that implementation.

We welcomed the issuance earlier this year of the global survey of Member States' implementation of resolution 1624 (2005) (see S/2012/16). We were pleased with the survey's comprehensive approach, which included analysing the implementation by geographical region and by theme, assessing the evolution of challenges and identifying implementation gaps that Member States have encountered. We also commend the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate for new, practical approaches aimed at helping Member States strengthen their implementation, which in our opinion constitute the most important part of the survey and one to which States should give particular consideration.

Regarding the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, we share the view that Al-Qaida and its affiliates continue to pose a serious threat to international peace and security. Azerbaijan welcomes the Committee's ongoing efforts to counter Al-Qaida-related terrorism. We agree that the Committee's practical approach to the Al-Qaida sanctions list, including its regular updates and review, contributes to universal and effective implementation of the sanctions. It is important that the Committee ensure that sanctions are fully implemented and appropriately adjusted to address current threats from Al-Qaida and its associates.

We would also like to mention the support rendered by the Monitoring Team through its outreach activities, including engaging with Member States and collaborating with various regional and subregional organizations and civil society. The Monitoring Team has played a crucial role in raising awareness and increasing knowledge of the sanctions regime, and we highlight in particular its contribution to completing narrative summaries for all the entries on the Al-Qaida list.

Azerbaijan is greatly appreciative of the activities of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), in particular its close interaction with Member States. It is essential that the Committee continue to solicit national implementation reports from Member States and, with support from the Group of Experts, to work constructively with them to increase the number of such reports.

Meanwhile, we believe that finalizing the establishment of the group of experts that will assist the Committee in carrying out its mandate under resolution 1540 (2004) is crucial. However, in so doing, we cannot allow any region to be overrepresented in that small group of experts. In that regard, we reiterate our firm belief that broad geographical representation must be one of the major criteria in selecting appropriate experts to serve in the Group.

I resume my functions as President of the Council.

I now give the floor to the representative of Spain.

Mr. Arias (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): I welcome the opportunity for my delegation to participate in this debate on the activities undertaken by the three Security Council Committees on the fight against terrorism. In that regard, we would like to fully endorse the content of the statement to be made by the representative of the delegation of the European Union.

We all know that terrorism is a global, complex and constantly changing threat that requires us to keep adjusting our response capacities. For that reason, we must continue to promote and to strengthen cooperation at all levels. We must not overlook the fact that the ideological factors behind organized crime, unresolved conflicts, alienation, social marginalization or the lack of peaceful integration in local communities often converge in terrorism. Therefore, apart from critical police and judicial activities, the response should often include an element of development.

One-sided or ad hoc solutions are not a valid option. A legitimate and systematic approach based on international cooperation is therefore needed. To that end, we have been developing a very satisfactory multilateral system in many respects. However, we are aware that there are still challenges in combating that scourge.

We may congratulate ourselves on having helped establish such an approach with, first, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted by consensus under General Assembly resolution 60/288 in 2006, which we will jointly review for the third time next June; secondly, relevant Security Council resolutions; and, thirdly, existing international legal instruments. The United Nations system has been undertaking significant work in the fight against terrorism. It must continue to play a prominent role as the guarantor of international law. Spain is committed to that.

In that regard, I wish to reiterate the strong commitment of Spain in the fight against all forms of terrorism, whatever its motive or manifestation. I would also like to reaffirm my Government's wish that such a task be an ongoing priority of the United Nations agenda.

In addition to our cruel experience of jihadist terrorism with the attacks of 11 March 2004, Spain suffered the blows of the Euskadi Ta Askatasuna terrorist organization for more than four decades. With unity and determination, we managed to defeat it through a democratic response, on the basis of our constitutional model of rights and freedoms, as well as international cooperation, which we greatly appreciate. We are a worthy example that, as States, we cannot successfully act alone in the fight against terrorism.

Spain demonstrates particular solidarity with the victims, who so often suffer, apart from the attack itself, the added injustice of rejection or neglect. We believe that our national legislation is an advanced model of recognition, protection and assistance for the victims of terrorism, whose spirit we wish to disseminate and promote at the international level. We also call for a new meeting to provide follow-up to the symposium on victims of terrorism, convened by the Secretary-General in New York in September 2008. That meeting gave significant impetus to giving a face and voice to such victims. We should be mobilized into providing assistance and support to victims of terrorism on moral grounds.

I wish to thank the Chairs of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities; resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism; and resolution 1540 (2004) for the information provided and for their work with their respective groups of experts.

Spain would like to highlight the work of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities. We value the Committee's efforts to increase the transparency of the system to review and update the names of persons and entities on the sanctions regime Consolidated List.

The adoption of resolution 1989 (2011) led to an improvement in the Committee's procedures and the calibre of the consolidated list. We underscore the need to continue to ensure that such procedures are impartial and transparent. We also emphasize the important role of the Ombudsperson in improving that impartiality and transparency. In that regard, we would also like to stress the important work of the Committee's Monitoring Team.

Spain would also like to underscore the work carried out by the Counter-terrorism Committee (CTC) and its Executive Directorate (CTED) in ensuring the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2011), 1624 (2005) and 1963 (2010) and the provision of technical assistance to countries that need it and request it. In that regard, I would like to point out the progress made regarding victims of terrorism with the adoption of resolution 1963 (2010), as it demonstrates deep solidarity with the victims of terrorism and their families.

It is also worth mentioning CTED's efforts to execute its mandate. In particular, we support its work on technical assistance in implementing resolution 1373 (2001). Convinced of its very valuable contribution, we believe that its human and material resources should be strengthened to ensure stronger direct presence and assistance on the ground in the relevant countries.

The proliferation and possession of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors or by rogue States or those that violate international law are serious threats to international peace and security. We have shown our support for the 1540 Committee's efforts to design monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of that resolution and to further its universal application.

Spain welcomes the unanimous adoption of resolution 1977 (2011), since it extends and strengthens the mandate of the 1540 Committee in the essential context of Member States' full and strict compliance with their obligations with regard to weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems in all its aspects. In that context, Spain wishes to underscore the work of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, and calls for further cooperation among all stakeholders in the fight against nuclear terrorism.

During this debate, the need to further improve cooperation among the three Committees and their expert groups has been pointed out. We also deem it important that the United Nations system entities that depend on the Security Council, as well as those that are part of the Secretariat and most closely tied to the General Assembly, maintain smooth relations in a context of flexible and effective coordination, so as to allow for consistent, complementary and holistic action in our efforts to eradicate terrorism. Hence we welcome the announcement by the Secretary-General of his intention to establish a single coordinator in the combat against terrorism. We are ready to continue to reflect and debate as required to continue to improve the system that we have created, with a view to promoting the implementation of the Global Strategy through operational, rigorous, open and participatory procedures.

I should like to conclude by expressing my appreciation for the efforts of the three Committees to enhance the effectiveness of their work. It is also encouraging to see the growing awareness of the need for all measures to respect individual human rights. With this essential respect for human rights, the entire international community must demonstrate its firm resolve to tackle the barbarity of terrorism.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Japan.

Mr. Kodama (Japan): At the outset, I would like to express my appreciation to the Chairs of the Council's three counter-terrorism-related Committees for their respective briefings this morning.

Last year, during the 10-year anniversary of the events of 11 September 2001, a special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee was held. At that meeting, we reviewed the progress made to date in the fight against terrorism and reaffirmed our commitment to zero tolerance for terrorism. In addition, the Global Counterterrorism Forum and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, new structures aimed at redoubling our efforts to counter terrorism, were established. It was a significant year in which we stepped forward into the next phase of the international fight against terrorism. This year as well we expect a great deal of active and constructive discussions in the Security Council.

Japan is actively participating in the Global Counterterrorism Forum and highly values its activities,

including the opening of an international centre to counter violent extremism and the holding of several meetings of each working group to strengthen international cooperation in the area of counter-terrorism.

In the effort to advance international counter-terrorism efforts, we hope that the three committees and the various bodies of the United Nations will take further steps toward ensuring greater dialogue, cooperation and collaboration with relevant bodies such as the Forum and private-sector organizations, and that such efforts will produce synergistic effects, thereby improving the ability of all parties to deal with terrorism by integrating and sharing best practices.

Even in the next phase of the international fight against terrorism, the central role of the broad and continuous activities of the relevant bodies, especially the three committees, must not change. At the same time, it is necessary to ensure the legitimacy and credibility of United Nations counter-terrorism measures.

In that regard, Japan values highly the activities of the Ombudsperson in the context of the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), which maintain and enhance the legitimacy and credibility of the sanctions regime. We will continue to cooperate actively with the work of the Ombudsperson and the Committee.

Japan stands squarely behind the three Committees. At the same time, we deem it equally essential to make their activities more transparent and widely known. To that end, Japan hosted in Tokyo a series of seminars on the promotion of accession to the international counter-terrorism Conventions and Protocols. With regard to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), twice last year my Government hosted seminars here in New York on sanctions, non-proliferation and disarmament, including the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), in order to facilitate the engagement of Member States and to promote the sharing of experience and knowledge. Together with Poland and Turkey, we will convene another meeting on 21 May here in New York.

In addition to global efforts, regional cooperation is key to materializing tangible outcomes in these areas. Japan has provided development assistance as well as support for capacity-building to countries in Asia. For example, for nearly two decades now Japan has spearheaded regional efforts by organizing Asian export-control seminars. That series of meetings, including one hosted in February of this year, has contributed to creating a wider regional network of experts from the Governments of East Asian countries. We understand that Germany also hosted a conference in Wiesbaden in April aimed at strengthening public-private collaboration in their region. Japan welcomes such initiatives, since we believe that, regardless of the membership of the Security Council, it is important to continue and strengthen such efforts at the regional level.

The United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator, whose appointment was recommended by the Secretary-General, could ensure the consistency and integrity of all efforts by United Nations entities in the field of counter-terrorism. Japan recognizes the necessity of establishing that position and hopes to see active discussions on the initiative and its mandate in the Security Council. In that regard, it is necessary that in the establishment of a counter-terrorism coordinator, duplication be avoided.

We strongly hope that the three Committees will continue to fulfil their roles in close coordination with one another. At the same time, it will be important to deal with several of the issues facing the Committees. We need to enhance their cooperation with the relevant bodies as well as the Committees' legitimacy and credibility. We must also expand movements and make greater efforts at the regional level, as well as appropriately enhance the consistency and integrity of all activities concerning counter-terrorism in the United Nations.

The Government of Japan will continue to take all possible measures to cooperate positively in the efforts of the three Committees.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Austria.

Mr. Sajdik (Austria): I have the honour to address the Council on behalf of the informal group of like-minded States on targeted sanctions. This group comprises Belgium, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and my own country, Austria.

Let me join others in thanking the Chairs of the three Committees for their informative briefings. As

the focus of our group is on strengthening the United Nations sanctions regimes through the implementation of fair and clear procedures, my remarks will concentrate on the Committee established pursuant to Council resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities. Our group considers that targeted sanctions are a useful and necessary tool in maintaining international peace and security, including in effectively combating international terrorism. We therefore support strengthening the effectiveness of the Al-Qaida sanctions regime.

Almost a year after the adoption of resolution 1989 (2011), on 17 June 2011, it is suitable to take stock of its implementation. The members of our group were pleased to see that that resolution has given both the Ombudsperson and the designating State the mandate to recommend de-listings. This procedure, in particular by requiring consensus on the part of the Committee to reject a delisting recommendation, has already proved to be a significant step in providing due-process guarantees for listed individuals or entities. We applaud Ombudsperson Kimberly Prost for her highly professional and dedicated work and steadfast efforts to examine whether the criterion for a continued listing is fulfilled. For that to be the case, there must be an association of the individual, entity, group or undertaking with Al-Qaida.

Our group is of the firm view that the success of the Ombudsperson's work and the credibility of the Committee hinge in particular upon the following conditions. The provision of all relevant information, including confidential information, is key to enabling the Ombudsperson to carry out her mandate effectively and examine whether a de-listing request is justified. We therefore encourage all States to consider concluding agreements or arrangements for sharing confidential information with the Office of the Ombudsperson. Switzerland, Belgium, Costa Rica, Germany and Liechtenstein have already concluded such arrangements, while other members of our group, including my own country, will soon follow suit.

One of the cornerstones of the rule of law and of due process is the obligation to provide reasons for decisions affecting the rights of individuals or entities. Whereas situations might occur in which the Committee will not follow the Ombudsperson's recommendations, resolution 1989 (2011) obliges the Committee to give reasons for its decisions under all circumstances. This must apply all the more if recommendations are rejected by the Council on appeal by a member of the Committee. The rule of law must apply not only outside the United Nations, but also within the United Nations, in particular in situations in which actions by the United Nations may directly affect individual rights. The United Nations should lead the way in that regard.

Therefore, it is crucial that the Committee's procedures be closely followed. Resolution 1989 (2011) provides for a three-phase process: an information-gathering period, a dialogue phase and, finally, the Committee discussion. Respect for those procedures, including time limits, by the Committee, the Ombudsperson and all other relevant actors is essential for fairness and transparency and impacts on the overall image of the Committee.

The like-minded States reiterate their strong support for the mandate of the Ombudsperson and the strict implementation of resolution 1989 (2011) in order to safeguard the Council's commendable efforts in advancing fair and clear procedures and due process. We urge all Member States to take note of the fact that the Ombudsperson is mandated to conduct her work in an independent and impartial manner.

With a view to the renewal of the mandates of the Ombudsperson and the Monitoring Team at the end of this year, the like-minded group reaffirms its continued commitment to improving fair and clear procedures for targeted sanctions and to making United Nations sanctions more effective. On the basis of its letter to the Security Council of April 2011, the group is committed to tackling the remaining challenges and weaknesses of the current Al-Qaida sanctions regime and to supporting the Council in further improving the regime. Safeguarding the transparency of the process is definitely a key element. In that regard, the disclosure of the identity of the designating State is crucial.

Another very important issue impacting on the Office of the Ombudsperson concerns the duration of its mandate, which should be extended beyond the existing 18 months. In addition, adding a sunset clause for all designations would underline that the measures taken against individuals and entities are by nature preventive and temporary, and not punitive.

The need to strengthen fair and clear procedures is not limited to the Al-Qaida sanctions regime, but is relevant to the other sanctions committees. A person

de-listed by the Al-Qaida Committee upon recommendation of the Ombudsperson, but thereafter listed by another sanctions Committee can only approach the focal point for de-listing pursuant to resolution 1730 (2006), but no longer the Ombudsperson. However, the mandate of the focal point does not provide for procedures comparable to those of the Ombudsperson. That inequality of due process lacks justification.

We therefore continue to call for further steps to improve the procedural fairness and clarity of other sanctions regimes. Such steps should include aligning listing and de-listing procedures with resolution 1989 (2011) and the Ombudsperson process. That would greatly enhance the observance of the rights of the affected individuals and entities and thereby improve the legitimacy and effectiveness of the Security Council's work.

Finally, let me state in my national capacity that Austria aligns itself with the statement to be made by the observer of the European Union.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Israel.

Mr. Prosor (Israel): Ambassador Mehdiyev, I would like to personally congratulate you on your presidency of the Security Council this month and to thank you for convening this very important meeting. I would also like to express my appreciation to the Chairs of the counter-terrorism Committees for their briefings this morning and their continued efforts to strengthen the United Nations response to terrorism.

We have been discussing the issue of terrorism in this Chamber for decades, yet States still speak out about this challenge as if they were discussing a lightning strike. For too many, terrorism is abstract and remote until it finally strikes them. Allow me to assume the role of forecaster. Nearly every State in the Chamber will be affected by terrorism. And one thing is clear — the less we do to prevent terrorism today, the more we will face its deadly consequences tomorrow.

I would like to lend Israel's support to several positive developments within the United Nations system. It happens, sometimes. The Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism indicated in its 2012 work programme that it would update the format of the preliminary implementation assessments. Any move to improve the quality of assessments is commendable. Israel believes that the role of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) in facilitating technical assistance is especially important. All opportunities to match donors with recipient States should be vigorously explored.

In his recent report on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/66/762), the Secretary-General identified border control as an issue of critical concern. Israel agrees wholeheartedly. In that context, I would like to voice our support for the Council's presidential statement of 25 April on illicit cross-border flows (S/PRST/2012/16).

The close cooperation between the Ombudsperson and the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities has brought about greater transparency and fairness in the sanctions regime. The improved procedures facilitate compliance with the regime. Israel appreciates the Ombudsperson's briefings to States on the activities of her office in the spirit of transparency and ongoing dialogue.

Finally, I wish to reiterate Israel's strong support for resolution 1540 (2004) and the Committee established to carry out its mandate. The international community has a clear duty to do whatever it takes to keep the world's most dangerous weapons out of the hands of the world's most dangerous terrorists and regimes.

Israel is proud to share its unique expertise with others in the global fight against terrorism. We are closely engaged in capacity-building initiatives with a number of States and regional organizations in Africa, South America and Asia. We are also working closely with the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Our collaborative efforts span a range of issues, from money-laundering to terrorist financing and from aviation security to border protection.

People do not become terrorists in a vacuum. They are taught to hate and they learn to kill. We see this clearly in the Middle East today, where State-sponsored incitement fills schools, mosques and the media. Across the region, terrorism and martyrdom are being taught and glorified to the next generation.

The prevalence of incitement around the world calls for the international community's immediate action. Countering incitement and radicalization is one of the most effective counter-terrorism tools at our disposal. We must promote education that teaches peace instead of hate, tolerance instead of violence and mutual understanding instead of martyrdom.

Recent United Nations reports show how far we have to go on this issue. CTED revealed disturbing gaps in its recent global survey on the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005) (see S/2012/16). For example, it noted that relatively little attention is being paid to "preventing the subversion of educational, cultural, and religious institutions by terrorists and their supporters", as called for in paragraph 3 of that resolution (*S/2012/16, para. 7*). States must act to stamp out institutionalized messages of hate.

The growing nexus between terrorism and transnational criminal networks presents another acute challenge. Hezbollah's activities offer one example of that disturbing trend. That terrorist organization has established itself as a major player in the global narcotics market, operating a network that spans from West Africa to the Middle East to Latin America. Hezbollah uses its global network to fund its terrorist activities and to provide the logistical support to carry them out. It is clear that today a straight line runs from picturesque fields of opium poppies to the pictures of bombs exploding in city centres.

The misuse of cyberspace is another area of growing concern. Increasingly, the web has become a central hub for spreading incitement and glorifying terrorism. It is also used for terrorist recruitment, instruction and financing. States must look for new tools to prevent such abuse. I would like to take this opportunity to invite all members of the Security Council to join us next month in Israel for a major conference on cybersecurity. It will take place on 6 June at Tel Aviv University, under the auspices of the Yuval Ne'eman Workshop for Science, Technology and Security.

In the midst of technical discussions like this, we must never forget that each victim of terrorism has a face and a family, a name and a story. Two months ago, an Israeli diplomat named Tal Yehoshua Koren left our Embassy in New Delhi to pick up her children from school. An Iranian terrorist sped up beside her and attached a bomb to her car. It exploded, seriously injuring that innocent mother of two.

That same morning, the same network — and the same Government — attempted similar attacks on Israeli diplomats in Bangkok and Tbilisi. Many other plots by Iranian networks have been foiled, from Washington to Baku to Bangkok. We also see grave cause for concern in Syria, where Al-Assad terrorizes his own people, as he spreads terrorism around the world.

Each act of terrorism holds the potential for serious consequences that extend well beyond the borders of any particular nation. We see that today in southern Israel, where terrorists from Gaza — sponsored by Iran — continue to rain down rockets on 1 million Israeli civilians, day in and day out. One rocket that explodes in the wrong place at the wrong time could ignite a dangerous escalation in our region. Yet the Council has not condemned the rocket fire. It has not uttered a single word. It is time for all in this Chamber to finally wake up to that dangerous reality. I have said it before and I will say it again: today's silence is tomorrow's tragedy.

Terrorism is a changing and growing threat. Increasingly, terrorists are sponsored, funded and directed by Governments and working with criminals. In a world that has never been more connected, those networks have never had greater opportunities to cause devastating damage. The international community must stay one step ahead. The world does not have the luxury to stand idle. Complacency will breed catastrophe, and we will all bear the consequences.

History shows us that terrorism can strike anyone and anywhere. It could be me. It could be anyone here. It could be our families or our communities. Every State Member of this Organization should be clear about its choices. To turn a blind eye to terrorists is to choose terrorism. Overlooking incitement is choosing to educate the next generation of terrorists.

For the sake of our children, our nations and our common future, we must drain the swamps of hate and lawlessness that spawn terror — and hold all those accountable who support it.

The President: I now give the floor to Mr. Thomas Mayr-Harting, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations.

Mr. Mayr-Harting: I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States.

As this is the first time I have the chance to speak in this Chamber in the month of May, I would like to congratulate you, Sir, and Azerbaijan on assuming the presidency of the Council and to thank the United States for its efforts during the month of April.

The acceding country Croatia, the candidate countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Iceland and Serbia, the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

Thank you very much, Sir, for organizing this useful briefing. We appreciate the efforts of the Chair of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism and the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), and we thank them for providing us with information on their activities and undertakings. Let me also underscore the essential role of the resolutions themselves in the global counter-terrorism efforts.

With regard to counter-terrorism-related sanctions, we welcome the further procedural improvements introduced to the Al-Qaida sanctions regime in June last year in resolution 1989 (2011). The Office of the Ombudsperson has made an important contribution to ensuring fair and clear procedures for individuals who seek delisting, and I am honoured to have been involved, in my former capacity as Ambassador, in the development of that Office. Pursuant to resolution 1989 (2011), we encourage designated individuals who are considering, or are in the process of, challenging their listings through national and regional courts to submit a petition for delisting to the Office of the Ombudsperson. We underline the importance of all relevant information being shared with the Office of the Ombudsperson, and that it particularly welcomes arrangements on the provision of confidential information.

Countering and preventing terrorism can be successful in the long run only when core universal values and the rule of law are respected, and international law — including human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law — are fully complied with. The promotion and protection of human rights is essential for all components of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In that context, an international conference was organized on 12 March by Denmark, which holds the presidency of the Council of the European Union. The aim of the conference was to help identify ways to better bring counter-terrorism measures and capacity-building efforts into line with the requirements of human rights and the rule of law. That task is of utmost importance if we wish to succeed in our long-term efforts to counter and prevent the scourge of terrorism. We also look forward to the upcoming review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

We commend the recent activities of the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate and look forward to its future work, in particular the upcoming workshops for Sahel and Maghreb countries. We welcome the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, including, among others, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with its Terrorism Prevention Branch, as well as the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute. We also look forward to the development of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre.

In addition, we welcome all efforts aimed at enhancing the visibility of United Nations counter-terrorism activities and at ensuring greater cooperation, coordination and coherence among United Nations entities, including, when appropriate, the contribution of relevant United Nations political offices and missions in the field. In that context, we welcome the Secretary-General's recommendation, for consideration by Member States, of the appointment of a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator, as a step towards further improving cross-institutional coherence in the United Nations counter-terrorism efforts.

Finally, let me turn to the resolution 1540 (2004) regime. As recognized during the recent Seoul Nuclear Security Summit, the full and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) will strengthen global efforts to prevent the acquisition and use by terrorists of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and materials. We strongly support the robust and effective implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). To that end, the European Union is currently finalizing a new

council decision focused on State assistance. We have also launched an extensive technical assistance programme on export control, focused in the first instance on neighbouring countries and which will be gradually expanded to South-East Asia and the Mediterranean. In that context, the European Union also co-sponsored the Conference of International, Regional and Sub-Regional Industry Associations on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) in Wiesbaden, Germany, in April.

The timing of today's joint briefing coincides with the regular European Union-United Nations political dialogue on counter-terrorism. I would like to conclude by underlining the importance that we attach to the close collaboration between the United Nations and the European Union.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. Ja'afari (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): Mr. President, I would like to congratulate you on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for this month and for the admirable manner in which you are undertaking the task.

We have closely followed the briefings presented by the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies in today's meeting, and we thank them for their statements.

Syria reaffirms its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of its source or perpetrators, be they groups, individuals or States. Terrorism consists of criminal, aggressive and unjust acts that target the lives and property of innocent people, and its effects touch everyone without distinction.

Today started as a beautiful sunny day in most of the capitals of the world, but it was a bloody day in Damascus. Our capital was shaken by two suicide terrorist attacks that killed 56 innocent individuals and grievously injured 372 others; the remains of 15 individuals have yet to be identified. Those statistics characterized this morning in Damascus, in contrast to the morning enjoyed by all other capitals in the world. It is therefore appropriate that, on behalf of my Government, I today address the members of the Security Council on the subject of counter-terrorism.

At 7:30 a.m. local time, two suicide terrorist bombers exploded two vehicles laden with explosives in an neighbourhood of Damascus that is densely populated with civilians. The area has four schools, including a primary school, a preparatory school and a secondary school. The two explosions took place at a time when students were on their way to school. As I mentioned earlier, the explosions killed dozens of innocent victims, civilian and military. Joint Special Envoy Kofi Annan quickly condemned the cowardly act, as did General Mood, chief of the United Nations observer mission. We expect the Security Council, under the wise leadership of its President, to condemn that cowardly act loudly and clearly, and to take a firm stance in addressing it in all its Arab, regional and international dimensions.

The explosion took place at the same time as another explosion in Aleppo this morning, which also claimed several civilian victims and did massive damage to private property.

Council members are well aware that, while Syria has witnessed a noticeable reduction in the level of violence, there has recently been an increase in the scale and frequency of terrorist activities and operations in the country. Extremist terrorist groups have emerged, using unusual criminal methods and carrying out organized terrorist operations based on extremist Takfiri edicts that label others as apostates and which are issued by inciters residing in countries well known to us all. These groups use suicide bombers, booby-trapped cars, explosive belts and packages to attack vital facilities and infrastructure and to sow fear among citizens. That is apparent in the terrorist explosions that have taken place in various areas around Damascus and Aleppo, as well as the two recent explosions in the province of Idlib, which the Security Council regrettably failed to condemn for unjustifiable political reasons.

The same applies to the terrorist explosion that took place yesterday in Daraa, targeting a convoy of the United Nations observer mission, which led to injuries among members of the Syrian security forces who were accompanying the convoy. That incident led the Secretary-General to condemn the explosion and all acts of violence, including the use of explosive devices in Syrian cities to target the forces of law and order, civilians and public and private property on a continuous daily basis; armed robbery, banditry, theft, vandalism, attacks on citizens in their homes and in their shops, in order to provoke and terrorize them; and the kidnapping of individuals for ransom, which is then used to support terrorist activities.

The number of army, police and security personnel kidnapped between 24 March to 26 April alone is 220 individuals. Some of those organized terrorist acts have carried the hallmarks of Al-Qaida method and ideology, including the mutilation of corpses, the killing of entire families on the basis of purely sectarian affiliation, and the carrying out of simultaneous suicide explosions in separate areas.

Since the beginning of the aforementioned events, we have conscientiously stressed that armed terrorist organizations associated with Al-Qaida are carrying out the atrocities in Syria, but many political parties and hostile media have cast doubt on our assertions. Today we are witnessing the public endorsement by groups and organizations affiliated with Al-Qaida of terrorist activities and operations carried out in Syria in response to appeals issued by leaders of Al-Qaida such as Ayman Al-Zawahiri, who has called for jihad in Syria.

Statements have also been made by the leaders of Western intelligence agencies, admitting that the Al-Qaida branch in a State bordering on Syria was behind the recent terrorist bombings in Damascus and Aleppo, following the infiltration by Al-Qaida elements into the ranks of the armed opposition fighting the Syrian Government. Arab and non-Arab media are reporting on a daily basis the deaths in Syria of foreign fighters of various nationalities in the course of undertaking terrorist operations. Indeed, some Al-Qaida-affiliated websites have been lamenting the loss of members of their groups in carrying out terrorist activities in Syria.

I have a list of 26 names of terrorists, some of whom are affiliated with Al-Qaida. We have transmitted the list to the Secretary-General, the President of the Security Council and the Chairman of its counter-terrorism subsidiary bodies. We also have recordings of those same individuals confessing that they are terrorists and had entered the country to carry out terrorist operations. This evidence is available from our delegation, and we are pleased to provide any member of the Security Council with copies.

Furthermore, we are in possession of copious documentary evidence of terrorist activities, all in English, and the names and citizenship of terrorists and those who have incited and supported them. Members of the Security Council, the Secretary-General and the Chairmen of the Council's subsidiary bodies shall soon receive this evidence. We also have a list of the names of 12 foreign terrorists who have been killed in Syria, including a French, a British and a Belgian citizen. This list is also available from our delegation, and we request you, Sir, to distribute it among the members of the Security Council.

Terrorist operations cannot be carried out without financing and support in the form of funds, weapons and operatives. Unfortunately, some Arab States and States of the region and beyond have provided such resources to help armed terrorist groups carry out terrorist activities in Syria. Those countries have publically and openly pledged to provide support in the form of weapons, funds, training and safe havens to help terrorists carry out acts of terrorism and sabotage against the peace and security of the Syrian State and people. To that end, they are engaged in illegal cross-border movements from neighbouring States.

The smuggling of funds and weapons to armed groups is a reality encountered on a daily and even hourly basis by the customs authorities and border guards of Syria. High-level officials of Syria's neighbours have spoken publically about disrupting the smuggling of weapons, money and people into Syria. For example, on 20 March the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lebanon spoke of the arrest by the Lebanese authorities of 27 individuals on charges of smuggling weapons into Syria. The Director of the General Security Service of Jordan has spoken of the detention by the Jordanian authorities of a number of individuals attempting to sneak weapons into Syria through our border crossings.

We have sent dozens of letters to the President of the Security Council and the Secretary-General on this topic. The most recent was that of 24 April concerning terrorists, most affiliated with Al-Qaida, who had been arrested in Syria following their infiltration of our borders for the purpose of undertaking terrorist operations. I should like to inform the Council that, on 27 April, the Lebanese authorities detained and seized the vessel *Lutfallah II*, which had sailed from Misurata, Libya, to Lebanon via Alexandria, Egypt, carrying 180 tons of weapons and advanced communications equipment, including rocket-propelled grenade launchers, French anti-tank and anti-aircraft launchers, and large amounts of TNT. This weaponry was intended to be smuggled into Syria for use in armed terrorist operations.

Statements have also been issued by certain armed terrorist groups, noting earlier successes in smuggling shipments of weapons, including American Stinger anti-aircraft rockets, into Syria. At the same time, a high-level official of the Libyan National Transitional Council had announced that 5,000 anti-aircraft had been misplaced or lost from Libyan arsenals. There have also been reports of Turkish and Libyan cooperation with other Arab and non-Arab States in sending lethal weapons to armed groups in order to sow death and destruction in Syria. I find it strange that the aforementioned ship entered Lebanese territorial waters via Egypt, passing without interdiction the positions occupied by the maritime units of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

Agreements to conspire to smuggle weapons and to facilitate the entry of terrorists into Syria undermine all efforts to find a political solution to the crisis there and to facilitate the implementation of the Security Council's resolutions and Mr. Annan's peace plan. Indeed, they reflect an attempt to undo Mr. Annan's mission and a blatant attack on Syrian sovereignty.

The Security Council, at a meeting presided over by the President of Azerbaijan last week (see S/PV.6765), reaffirmed in presidential statement S/PRST/2012/17 its strong and unequivocal denunciation and condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of its perpetrators, location or purposes. We call on the Council to translate those words into deeds, to take the immediate actions necessary to stop all terrorist activities in Syria, and to exert maximum pressure on the States that are facilitating, financing and inciting the groups undertaking such activities to comply with the Council's resolutions concerning terrorism and Syria.

Terrorist acts have spilled the precious blood of our people. The day will come when we shall call to account all those who have taken part in, incited, financed or facilitated such activities. Terrorism is an international crime that requires an international response. That was the gist of the presidential statement issued on behalf of all members of the Council. Accordingly, the fight against terrorism cannot be selective, relative or subjective. It must match deeds to words. We also call on the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 1373 (2001) to complete their mandated tasks and to implement the substance of these resolutions with respect to events in Syria.

The terrorist activities now taking place in Syria, which target the stability of the State, the nation and society, are no less dangerous than the terrorist activities that targeted New York on 11 September and the terrorist activities that targeted Madrid and London. There is no righteous terrorism and malicious terrorism. There is only one terrorism that must be combated. The terrorism that targets Syria is the same as the one that targeted New York, London Madrid and other cities. There are also media, cultural, political and economic terrorism. It is all terrorism. There is no merit for a Member State of this Organization to finance the creation of a centre for counter-terrorism while it stands behind the incitement to terrorism and finances terrorist groups in my country. Terrorism is one and the same.

Finally, terrorism throughout the world is caused primarily by Zionist terrorism, which was initiated by Israel much earlier in the life of this international Organization. In 1954, Israel hijacked a Syrian aircraft. It was the first time ever that a civilian aircraft had been hijacked. Later, Israel carried out a series of terrorist activities that you are well aware of and which led to the displacement of millions of Palestinians from their homes. The course of Israeli terrorism has continued to this day. The words that you heard from the speaker who spoke before me were merely a distraction to divert attention from Israeli terrorism, the sole purpose of which is to undermine the possibility of establishing a Palestinian State in the West Bank and Gaza and to focus attention on issues other than State terrorism, a form of terrorism that is well-evidenced in thousands of documents issued by the United Nations in New York and Geneva.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Australia.

Mr. White (Australia): Thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to address the Council today. I would also like to thank the Chairs of the three Committees, Ambassadors Wittig, Puri and Sangqu, for their valuable and informative briefings and for their leadership of the key subsidiary bodies of the Security Council.

Unfortunately, as we know and have been reminded today, terrorism remains a key threat to international peace and security. Comprehensive and coordinated action remains essential if we are to address the threat of terrorism. To that end, Australia is

strongly committed to promoting the universal and effective implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004). We have conducted numerous outreach and capacity-building activities focused on assisting countries in developing and strengthening their legal frameworks and technical capabilities. In the past two years, Australia has provided counter-terrorism financing, capacity-building and technical assistance to over 30 countries in the Pacific, South-East Asia, South Asia and Africa. This is an area in which Australia has particular expertise and which we are committed to sharing with others.

In relation to resolution 1373 (2001), in June the International Organization for Migration will hold a border security workshop in Nigeria, which Australia is sponsoring. We are also supporting a new United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime programme of work on counter-terrorism financing and anti-money laundering in Kenya and Somalia. This builds on a workshop Australia presented for East African Community countries last month on counter-terrorism financing and anti-money laundering.

We were also pleased to have the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), Ambassador Sangqu, speak at the fourth Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament in Sydney in March. That meeting was an important opportunity to raise awareness of the work of the 1540 Committee and to share best practices on strengthening resolution 1540 (2004) in the Asia-Pacific region, and we would like to acknowledge Ambassador Sangqu's important contribution.

Australia remains committed to promoting the implementation of the resolutions on counter-terrorism and to assisting countries to build and develop their capacities both in our region and beyond. More broadly on the United Nations counter-terrorism agenda, Australia looks forward to a constructive review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in June, in which we will engage actively. We welcome the suggestion for the establishment of a new counter-terrorism coordination position and see great benefit in greater cooperation among United Nations entities to ensure coordination and coherence in counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system.

I now wish to make some comments on the 1267 Al-Qaida sanctions regime. Australia believes in the importance of the United Nations setting an example with regard to the principles it seeks to promote. As the Secretary-General has noted recently in his latest report entitled "Delivering justice: programme of action to strengthen the rule of law at the national and international levels" (A/66/749), the application of basic rule-of-law principles is crucial to the legitimacy of actions taken by the principal organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council. This is a key part of strengthening the rule of law at the international level.

We strongly support efforts to improve the fairness, transparency and effectiveness of United Nations sanctions system procedures. To ensure that only the appropriate people and entities remain listed, it is crucial for individuals and entities to understand the reasons for their listing and to be afforded the opportunity to provide information so that delisting can occur when appropriate. It is also important for the Security Council sanctions system to be able to withstand domestic legal challenge if it is to remain effective.

We believe that the establishment of the Ombudsperson for the 1267 sanctions regime has been an important step forward in strengthening fair procedures, particularly in relation to delisting requests. In that regard, we wish to acknowledge and thank Ms. Kimberly Prost for her tireless efforts, including her active outreach activities and in keeping the Security Council apprised of her Office's activities. The Office has only been operational a short time and yet has established a substantial caseload, resulting in 13 individuals and 23 entities being delisted. Without the Ombudsperson's recommendations, such individuals may well have remained inappropriately subject to the effect and stigma of sanctions.

Australia was particularly pleased with the strengthened role of the Ombudsperson provided by resolution 1989 (2011), which served to increase the transparency of the listing and delisting processes. In terms of delisting, the changes ensure that greater weight is given to the Ombudsperson's recommendations through the Committee process. That strengthens the independence of the Office and also the ability of the petitioner to be heard. Due process is also strengthened by the emphasis given in resolution 1989 (2011) to the provision of reasons by the Committee,

such as when the Committee has decided to reject a delisting request.

As a practical matter, Australia believes that the delisting process can work effectively only if the Ombudsperson has the relevant information needed to enable her to make an informed recommendation to the Committee. Recommendations should be made on the basis of complete information. Providing a petitioner with detailed reasons as to why their delisting request was accepted or denied is fundamental to ensuring that due process is followed. Australia has, along with a number of other States whose representatives spoke today, concluded arrangements with the Office of the Ombudsperson to share confidential information. We urge all Member States to consider entering into similar arrangements and to cooperate fully with any requests for information by the Ombudsperson.

Finally, as recommended by the Secretary-General last year in his report on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule-of-law activities (S/2011/634), Australia considers that further consideration should be given to extending the mandate of the Ombudsperson across other sanctions regimes. We recognize the role of the delisting focal points in relation to the other regimes, and we also recognize that the Al-Qaida sanctions regime is of a different nature from the others. However, in our view, we should consider extending the level of protection provided by the Ombudsperson to the other regimes. Greater uniformity across the regimes could serve to improve the overall effectiveness of the United Nations sanctions system.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Armenia.

Mr. Nazarian (Armenia): I thank the members of the Security Council for the opportunity to participate in this briefing. Armenia aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union. However, we would also like to make some remarks in our national capacity.

We appreciate the efforts of the Chairs of the Committees aimed at strengthening dialogue and mutual understanding among States, the United Nations and civil society in combating the scourge of terrorism. Armenia is fully committed to working with the Committees established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), 1267 (1999) and 1989, and 1540 (2004), and we are determined to contribute to all actions undertaken by the United Nations in their support.

In particular, we are continuing our close cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC). At the national level, the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate has prepared a list of recommendations and updated its preliminary implementation assessment of Armenia. Armenia has already submitted five detailed, comprehensive reports, and we will continue our constructive dialogue aimed at the full implementation of resolution 1373 (2001).

Armenia has already demonstrated its commitment to combating terrorism and has lent its support to the international efforts against it. We are a State party to United Nations, Council of Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States counter-terrorism instruments, and have enacted the national legislation necessary to their timely implementation, while effectively observing the rule of law and human rights, which are fundamental to the fight against terrorism. As noted in the report of the most recent CTC visit to my country, Armenia has enacted legislation in conjunction with the requirements of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; moreover, the Armenian Government has introduced further amendments in connection with counter-terrorism financing legislation.

Looking at the issue of counter-terrorism from a regional perspective, and given the geographic position of the countries in our region, we believe that those countries could benefit from the establishment of common mechanisms for developing a more coordinated approach to combating terrorism. Unilaterally, we have adopted practical and effective border-control measures, and have demonstrated a strong interest in acquiring more technology and equipment of the kind necessary to further enhance the existing border security regime. However, the fact that borders with some of our neighbours are closed has discouraged regional border security cooperation in that very sensitive geostrategic area.

In that context, I would like to express our concern, noting that a number of recent reports by international and regional organizations clearly reflect the fact that the territory of our neighbour Azerbaijan is actively used by various terrorist and religious extremist groups and structures, and serves as a safe haven for their criminal activities. Those groups have

sought to move people, money and weapons through the Caucasus, and international organizations have issued alarming assessments of Azerbaijan's counter-terrorism efforts. The close links between the Azerbaijan authorities and the terrorist groups affiliated with Al-Qaida who fought in the war against Nagorno Karabakh in the early 1990s are also widely known and documented. Because of the transnational nature of the crime of terrorism and the lack of regional cooperation, we have to be vigilant and not allow this situation to continue to be exploited by radical elements for the purpose of recruitment for terrorism and provocations.

Lastly, addressing the fight against terrorism from an international standpoint, Armenia firmly believes that international and regional organizations must strengthen their cooperation, including by assisting with know-how and other related help. In that context, we would welcome cooperation between NATO and States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization through bilateral means in areas of mutual interest relating to the fight against terrorism.

Today, the international community is united in condemning terrorist acts, providing unique momentum for a comprehensive approach to cooperating in the adoption of effective tools and mechanisms for eliminating terrorism. I assure the members of the Council of Armenia's commitment and readiness to work with the Committees, and I thank the Chairs for their valuable participation. We look forward to continuing our work on this important issue.

The President: I will now make a short statement in my national capacity.

It is unfortunate that the representative of Armenia has attempted to use the opportunity of our debate to make groundless, propagandistic statements. It is well known that international Armenian terrorism has bloody, historic antecedents in the perpetration of numerous terroristic acts in various countries and the killing of thousands of innocent people.

I would like to inform the Security Council that yesterday a letter was sent to the Secretary-General containing information on facts that attest to Armenia's organization and implementation of numerous terrorist acts against Azerbaijan and other countries. That information affords Council members and the broader international community an opportunity to make their own assessment of the matter and to draw conclusions about this hopeless attempt by Armenian propaganda to mislead the United Nations in general and the Security Council in particular.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

There are no more speakers inscribed on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.45 p.m.